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COMICS™

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Bestselling Comic

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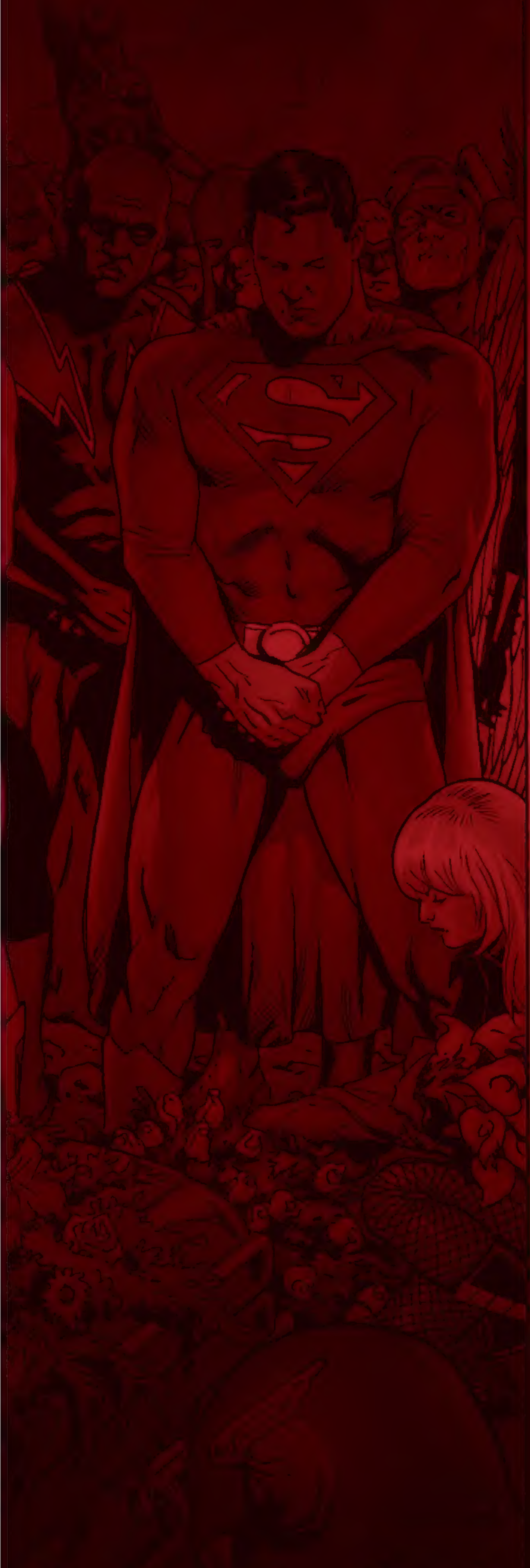
F I N A L

C R I S I S

GRANT MORRISON

J.G. JONES

DOUG MAHNKE



F I N A L
C R I S I S



FINAL CRISIS

GRANT MORRISON
writer

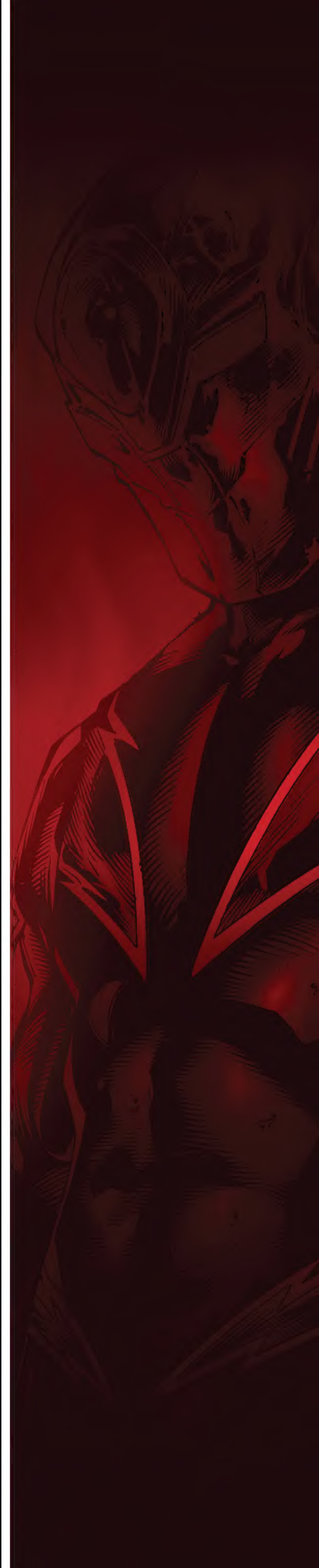
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By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family



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FINAL CRISIS (NEW EDITION)

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IT'S ANOTHER RAINY WEDNESDAY. WE'VE BEEN DOING ERRANDS ALL AFTERNOON IN A BORROWED CAR AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY HOME AFTER THE LAST STOP: FAT JACK'S COMIC CRYPT IN DOWNTOWN PHILADELPHIA. I'M IN THE PASSENGER SEAT, GIGGLING LIKE A MONKEY.

"What are you laughing at?" my girlfriend asks in that way you do when you're concerned for someone's mental health.

In my best solemn narrator impression voice, I read aloud: "'As he speaks, the vast, slow motion **INVASION OF REALITY** begins. Machines bigger than **CITIES** arrive out of the **VOID** and **ANCHOR** themselves to the garbage heaps of **LIMBO**.'"

"It does not say that," she says with a breaking smile.

I turn the page and continue: "'Phantom armies clash on the battlefields of **LIMBO**. This strange, last outpost of **EXISTENCE**. The **FORGOTTEN** versus the **YET TO BE**. Like some half-remembered dream. All the rules of Existence are broken.'"

"It does not say that," she says, starting to chuckle.

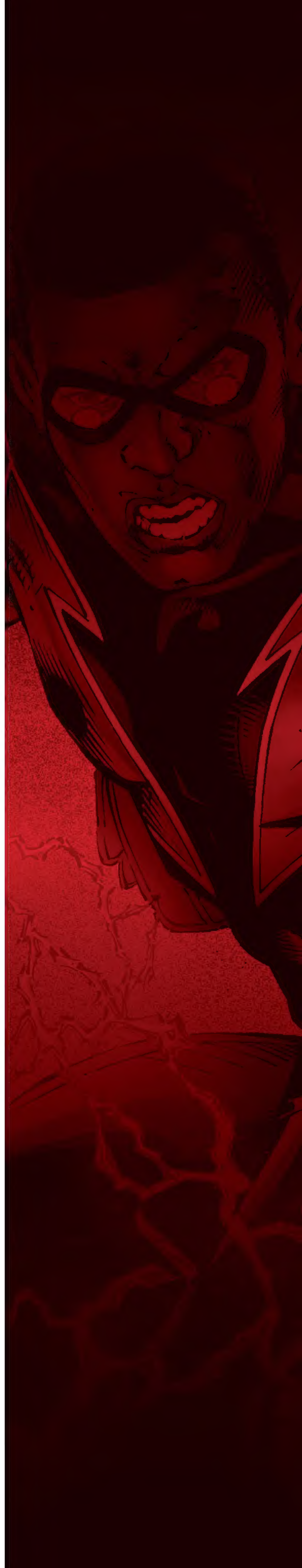
"And then Superman yells, 'There are **52 WORLDS** in the multiversal super-structure! ...Warn everyone, like Paul Revere! Tell them Mandrakk is coming! **I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO PLUG THE HOLE IN FOREVER!**'"

"Wow. And this is a Superman comic book? People are reading this?"

"It's SUPERMAN BEYOND 3D Number 2, which is part of the FINAL CRISIS miniseries, the number one title from DC right now."

We're stopped at a red light that never turns, so I show her the comic book. And she starts laughing, too. How old are we? We're both 38. But in this moment I feel like I'm 12 years old, reading aloud from CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, riding home from an after-school trip to Comics Plus in Pomona, California, with my eighth grade friends, courtesy of Kevin Kolodziej's endlessly benevolent supermom. Or, closer, I'm 28, reading aloud to a college friend on the phone some fantastic captions from a worn-out back issue of NEW GODS (or was it *Jimmy Olsen, Superman's Best Friend?* I can't remember) I'd just found at Another World Comics in Eagle Rock, California, where the excited narrator is describing the FOREVER PEOPLE, Jack Kirby's cosmic techno-hippies who live harmoniously in a psychedelic tree village somewhere outside Metropolis....

It's that laughter, that kind of involuntary-response joy/wonder/glee at first awed, disbelieving encounter with an over-the-top-and-beyond your idea/image in a comic book—something so **WEIRD** and **GREAT** and **TRUE** that you can't believe it actually got published—that is happening here, in this moment, as we wait for the accursed light to change, as we turn the pages and get to the part where Captain Adam demonstrates quantum super-position, and then Superman reaches his hand through... Well, you'll be



finding out through what exactly soon enough. Let me just say this: I've been loving moments like this for as long as I've been reading comic books, which is a pretty long time, and no one has delivered more of them per issue during the last 20 years than writer Grant Morrison, from ANIMAL MAN, DOOM PATROL and (FINAL CRISIS overture) FLEX MENTALLO to *New X-Men*, JLA and ALL-STAR SUPERMAN. But FINAL CRISIS is his grandest-scale moment yet, a particularly harrowing section of the story that is the DC Universe, in which the ultimate conflict goes down—not who would win, Superman or Darkseid (although that's in here, too)—but the real biggie: existence versus non-existence! Is versus Isn't! **UNIVERSE VERSUS !!!**

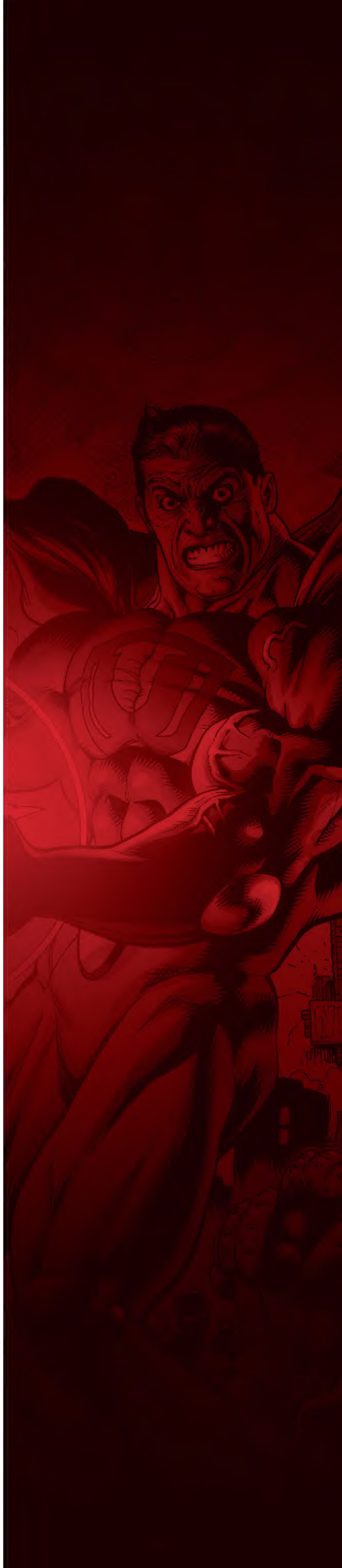
FINAL CRISIS is a major achievement of 21st century imagination and craft in mainstream media, works on countless levels, far too many for me to enumerate here. FINAL CRISIS is so good that although it's part of a continuing, decades-in-the-telling saga involving countless characters, you can follow the plot and dig on the ideas and the dialogue and the sheer spectacle of the events that spiral from the trash up into the transcendent, even if you're not familiar with all the backstory. (Rest assured that there are detailed annotations available online regarding previous references to Darkseid's hatred of music, which parallel Earth Nubia and where her Wonder Horn comes from, and so on...) Of course, that's the way it's always been with DC Universe comic books: you don't always know everything about everyone, and sometimes you miss stuff, and sometimes you only suss out later what something was really all about. (Same is true for life in the real world, actually...) FINAL CRISIS continues in that tradition, but as you'll see, it's at a higher dose—a different pitch, a denser signal—than usual, one that mirrors the world we are living in, when too many things really are going terribly wrong all at the same time, when headlines really do scream about catastrophe, turmoil, doom, collapse and apocalypse.

And maybe that's this audacious work's genius, even more than its elegant architecture, its overwhelming dazzle, its virtuoso artwork by J. G. Jones and Doug Mahnke: the way that it shows us, sitting here in a car, a path beyond the current situation, out of economic cataclysm and endless horrible wars and ecological peril and unchanging red lights. We're being flat-out wowed into a very psychedelic, progressive, imaginative space by a superhero comic book. And that makes us laugh. We hum a brighter, richer tune. And then the light changes, and we go.

Plugging the hole in forever,

JAY BABCOCK

Jay Babcock is the editor and publisher of *Arthur*, the free bimonthly magazine of "homegrown counterculture" and Rolling Stone's "Hot Magazine" of 2005, whose contributors have included Alan Moore, Paul Pope, author Douglas Rushkoff, musicians Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth), David Byrne (Talking Heads), and many others. His writing on music, culture and ideas during the last 15 years has appeared in Mojo, Vibe, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and the LAWeekly.



THE LIGHT.

THE SHADOW.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO
CAN SEE THE SHADOW.

THIS GIGANTIC SHADOW CAST
ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE.

FALLING OVER
EVERYTHING.

I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO KNOWS THERE
WAS A WAR IN HEAVEN.

AND EVIL
WON.

THE MULTIVERSE TAKES
A SINGLE BREATH...
LIKE A RUNNER POISED
ON THE LINE...



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT
ANYONE ELSE BUT AFTER
THIS WHOLE DAMN YEAR,
THE ROGUES ARE *DONE*
WITH PLEDGING TO ANY
ALLEGIANCES OUTSIDE
OF OUR OWN.

WHOSE
GREAT IDEA WAS
IT TO MEET *HERE*,
IN THE HEART OF
FLASH TERRITORY,
ANYWAY?

I DON'T
LIKE *ROGUES*.
IDON'TLIKEANY
OFTHIS.

THERE ARE
WEIRDVIBRATIONS
INTHIS ROOM...
SOMETHING JUST
PASSED BY ME...



GENTLEMEN,
PLEASE...

I DIDN'T ASK YOU HERE
TO WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS
TIME.

YOU
CAN CALL ME
LIBRA.

I'M HERE TO
BALANCE THE
BOOKS.

...AND IT'S
MY BREATH.





LET'S FACE IT, THE **SECRET SOCIETY**'S A TOOTHLESS SHADOW OF ITS FORMER GLORY.

YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN THROUGH HELL! YOU'VE BEEN DEMORALIZED AND HUMILIATED... BUT I'M HERE TO HELP YOU CHANGE ALL THAT.

BECAUSE MAKE NO MISTAKE, THERE IS A GOD!



THERE IS A NEW GOD IN WHOSE NAME THE BAD MEN CAN OFFER UP THEIR PRAYERS AND HE WILL ANSWER!

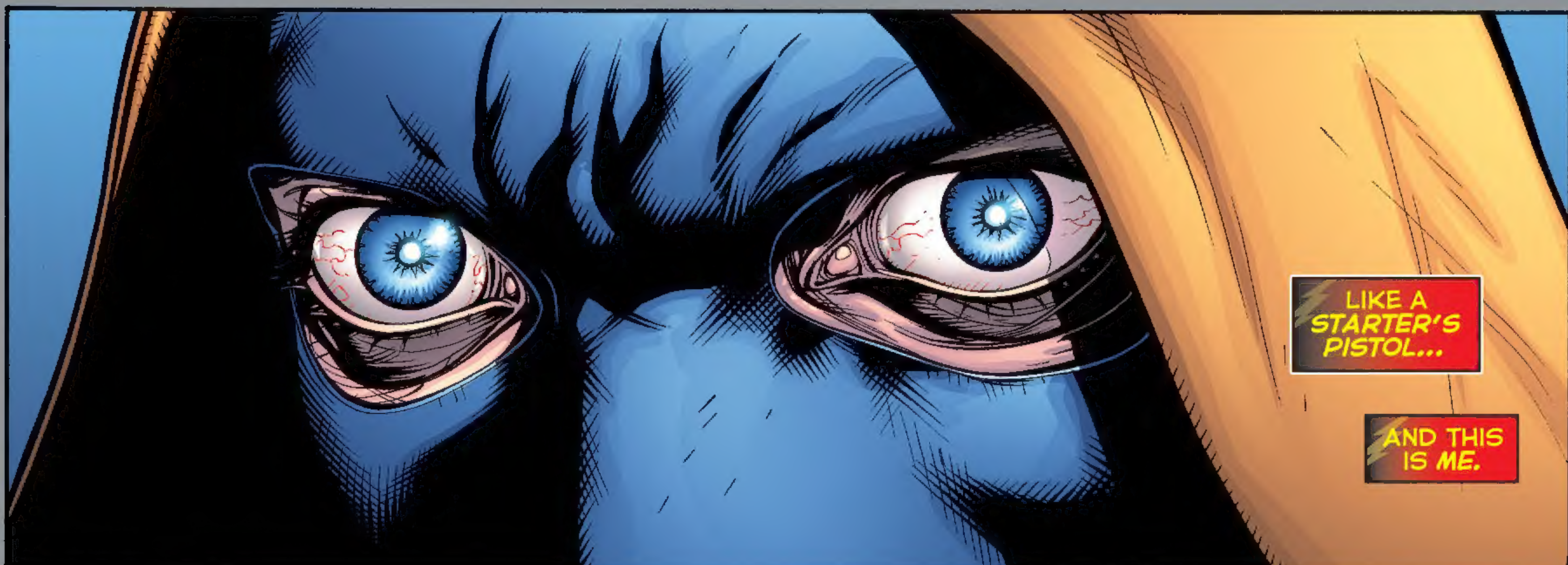
AND HERE IS HIS BOOK!

AND I AM THE PROPHET OF HIS NEW AGE!



HERE IS THE GREAT NEWS!

ALL WHO FOLLOW ME IN HIS NAME WILL BE GRANTED THEIR HEART'S DESIRE!



AND NOW
I REMEMBER

KRA-BOOM!

Strip Tease
Twisters



LET THERE BE LIGHTNING

GRANT MORRISON
writer

DOUG MAHNKE
penciller

CHRISTIAN ALAMY
inker

ALEX SINCLAIR
colorist

NICK J. NAPOLITANO
letterer



DOA: THE GOD OF WAR

GRANT MORRISON
writer

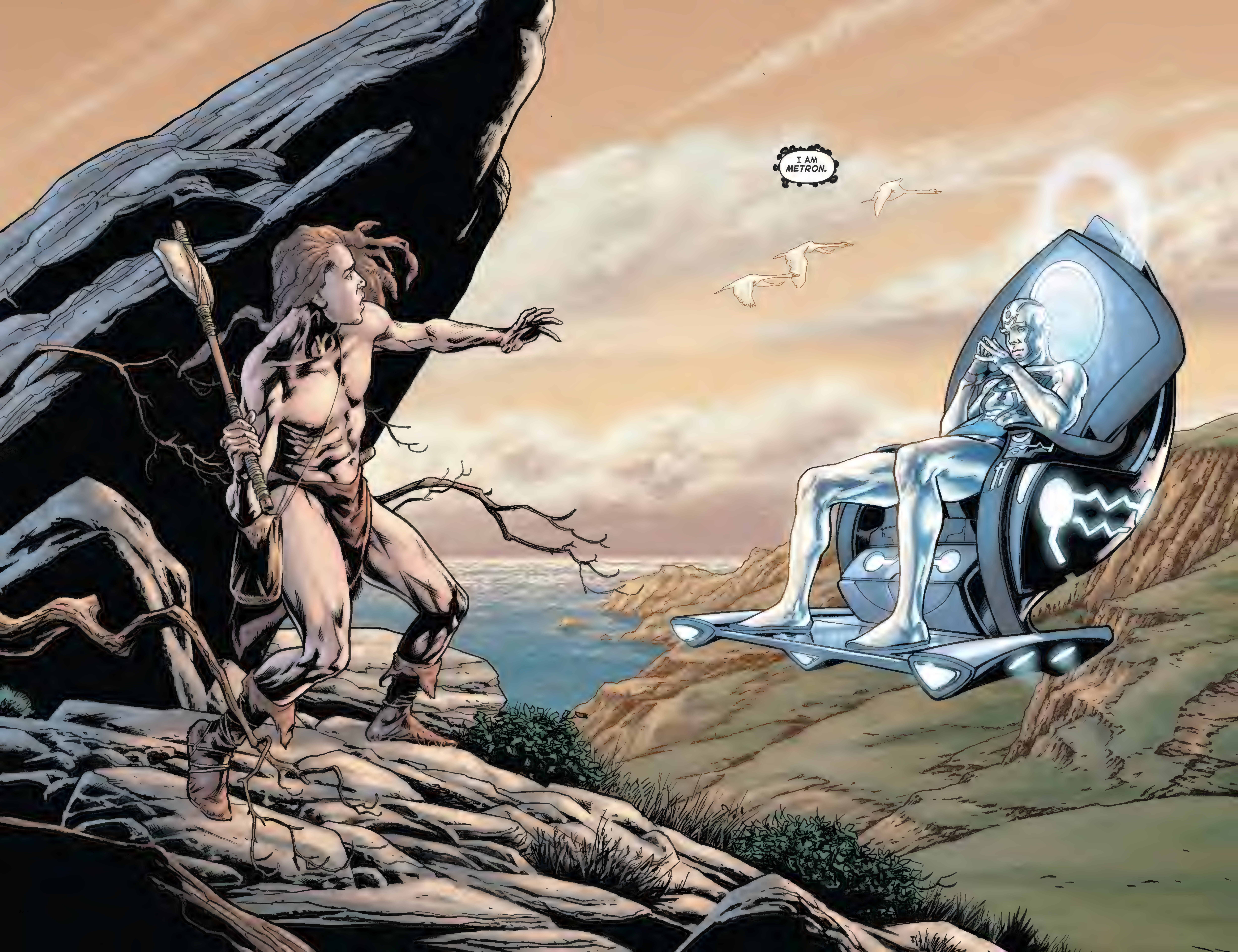
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artist

ALEX SINCLAIR
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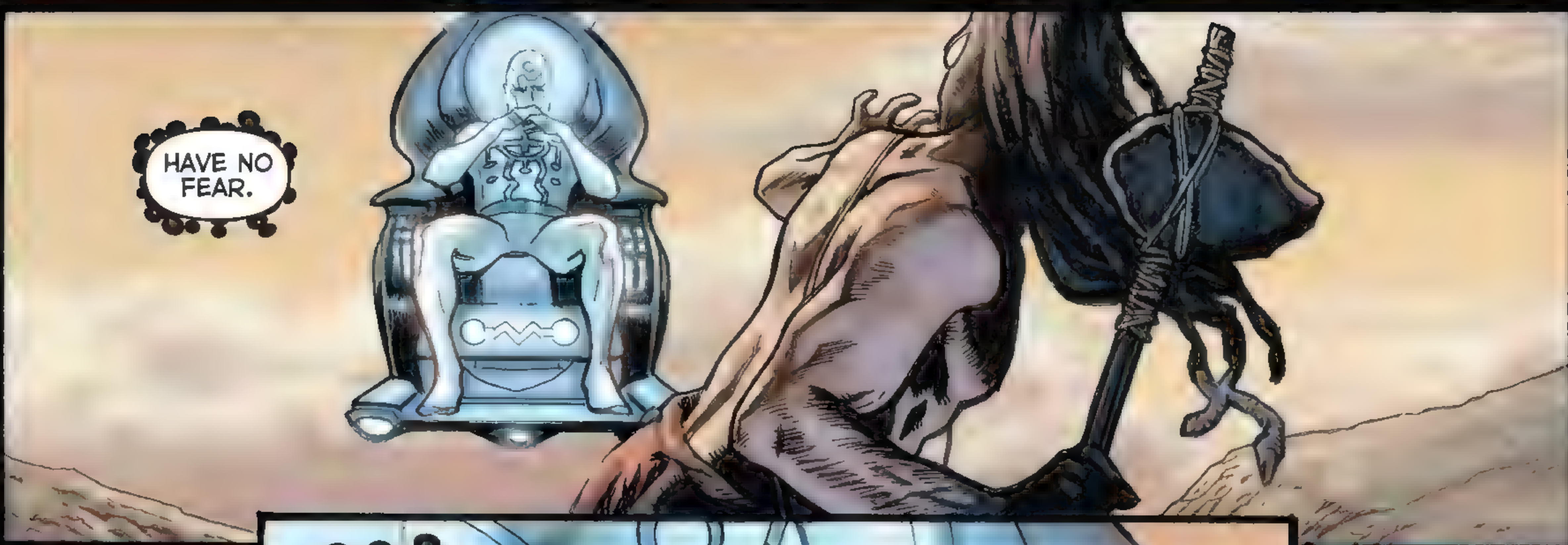
ROB LEIGH
letterer

J.G. JONES
cover artist



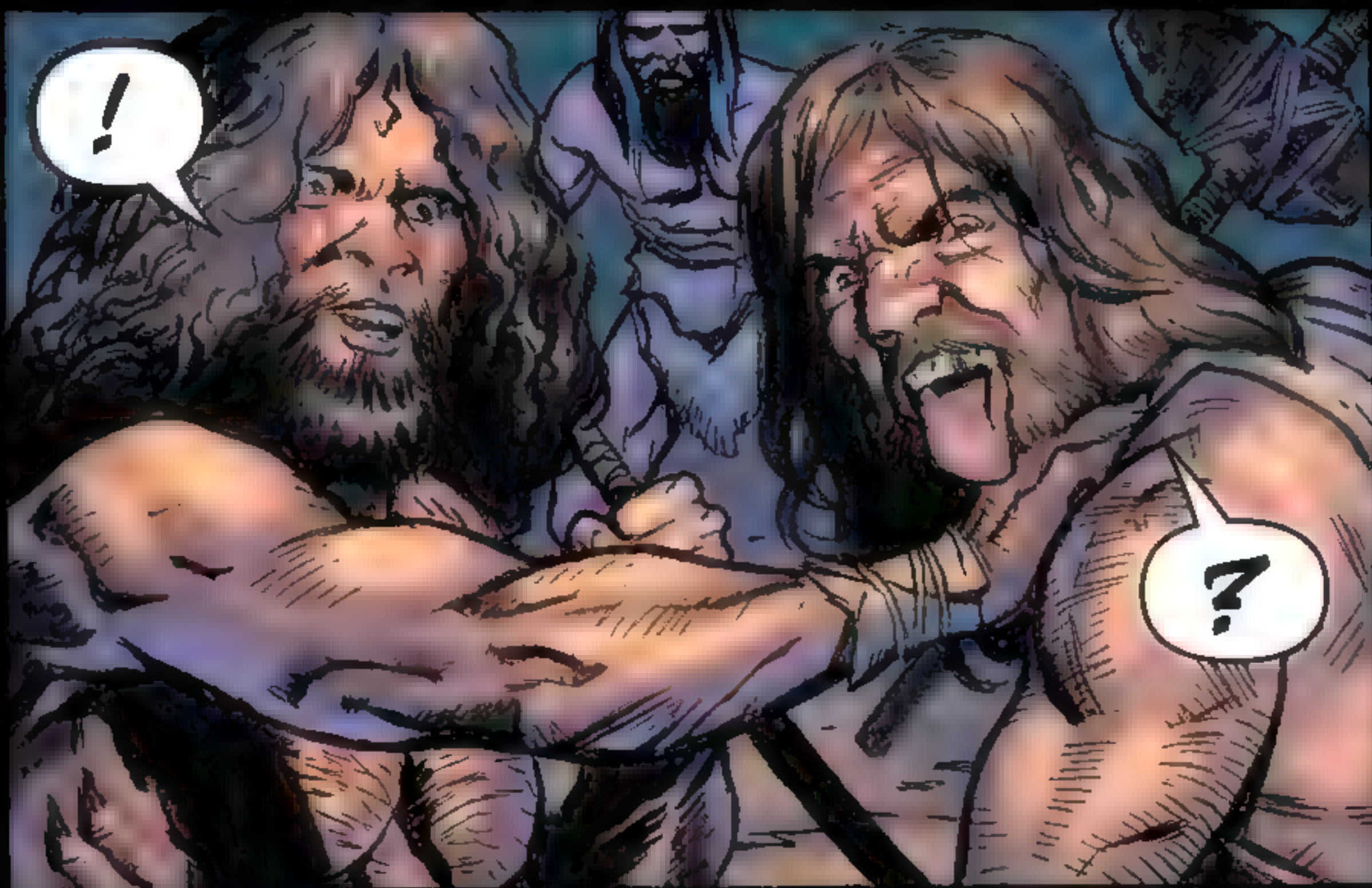
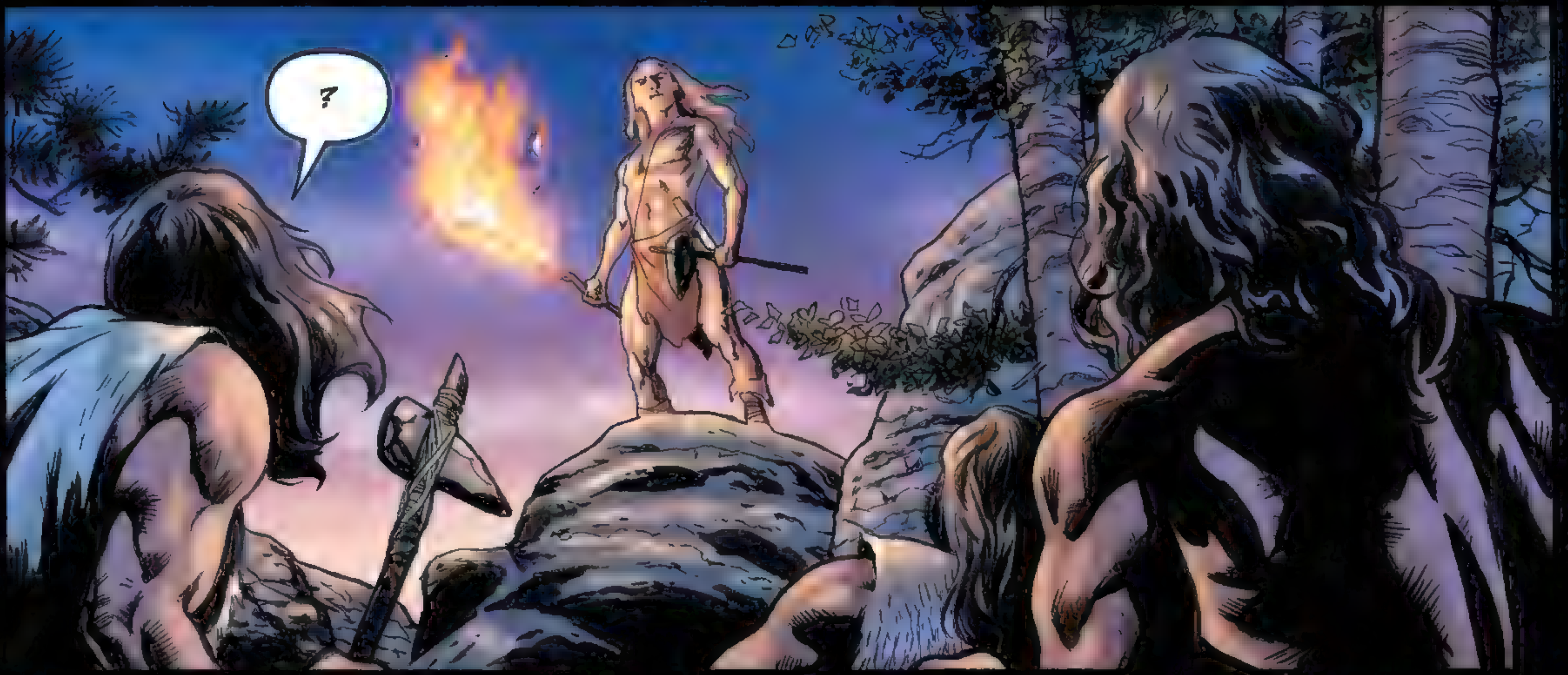


I AM
METRON.











LIKE EVERYTHIN' ELSE THE
SAD, STINKIN' HUMAN RACE
EVER THOUGHT OF...

WE TAKE A
GOOD IDEA.

AND WE USE IT TO
KILL OURSELVES.

HERE'S ME, WAY PAST
RETIREMENT AND THREE
WEEKS OUT ON THE TRAIL
OF SIX MISSING KIDS.

BRIGHT KIDS, GIFTED KIDS
WHO WENT OUT ONE DAY
AND NEVER CAME HOME.



LAST THING I EXPECTED WAS
TO FIND ME A SUPER MUK MUK
IN THE GARBAGE.





TZZAOW!



...HEAVEN...
CRACKED AND
BROKEN...

YOU!



GET YOUR
HANDS OFFA
ME!

THEY
DID NOT
DIE!

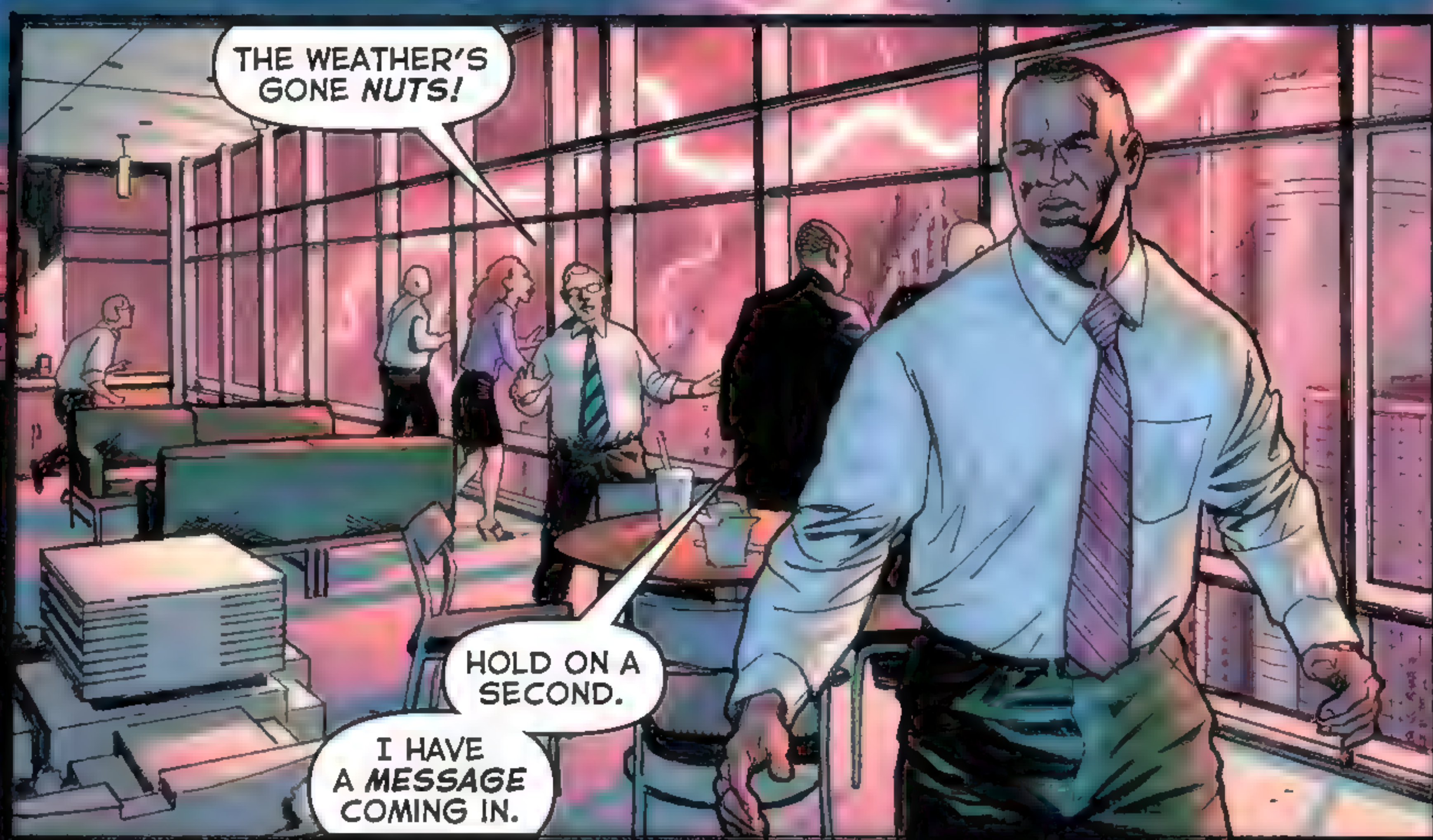
HE IS
IN YOU
ALL...



FIGHT.
**



JOHN,
YOU HAVE TO
CHECK THIS
OUT.



THE WEATHER'S
GONE NUTS!

HOLD ON A
SECOND.

I HAVE
A MESSAGE
COMING IN.



LANTERN
STEWART
2814.2

1011 IN
PROGRESS.

1011 IN
PROGRESS.



1011?

WHAT
THE HELL'S
1011?



BACK IN THE DAY WITH THE METROPOLIS
SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT, I LEARNED HOW TO
STOP A SUPERHUMAN DEAD.

BUT ME SEEING
THIS...

ME BEING HERE...



IT FEELS LIKE...
SACRILEGE

LET THE SPACE COPS
HANDLE THE FALLOUT.

I'M GONE.



MY BACKUP
ON THE WAY
YET?

LANTERN
JORDAN 2814.1
HAS BEEN
ALERTED.

HIS RING IS
NOT RESPONDING
AT THIS TIME.





LIGHTWEIGHT.

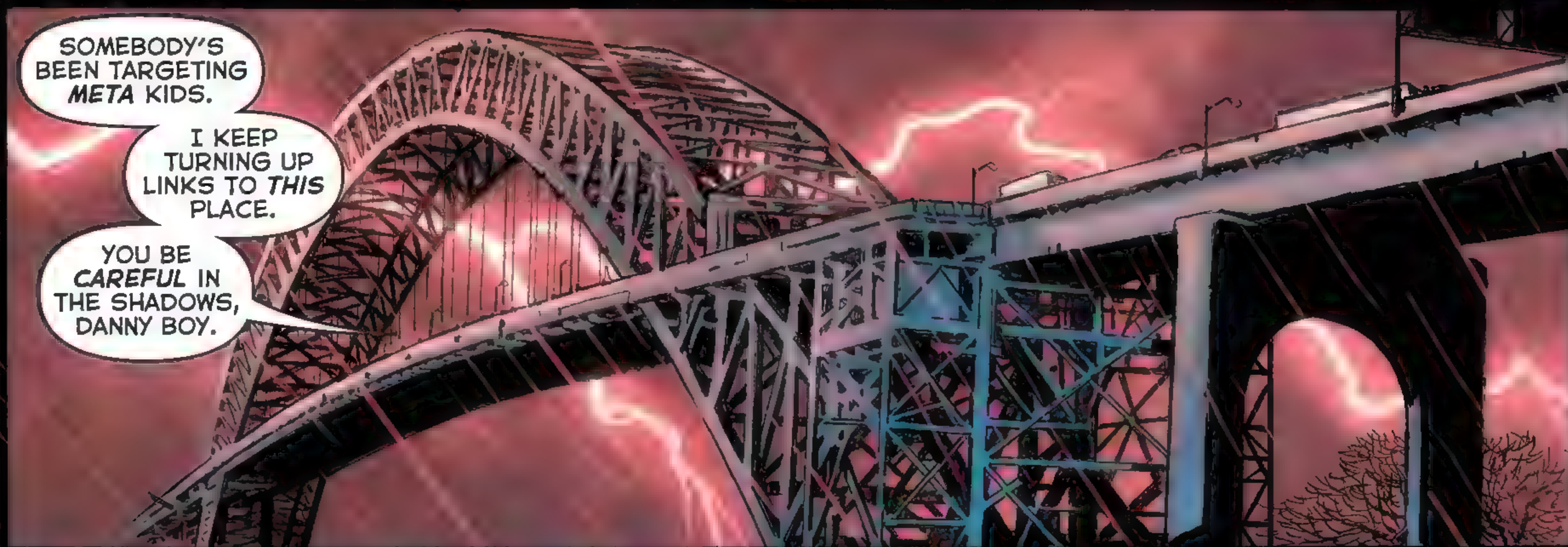
SORRY!
I'M SORRY!

WHAT
YOU GOT?

A QUESTION,
YOU IGNORANT
OLD @%#&\$%

WHAT DID
YOUR SIX HAVE IN
COMMON, APART
FROM BEING POOR
AND SMART?

ANY EVIDENCE
OF SUPERPOWER
METAGENE
ACTIVITY, FOR
INSTANCE?



SOMEBODY'S
BEEN TARGETING
META KIDS.

I KEEP
TURNING UP
LINKS TO THIS
PLACE.

YOU BE
CAREFUL IN
THE SHADOWS,
DANNY BOY.



WHY ARE
YOU HELPING
ME ANYWAY?

HEY!

HEY!



SUPER
MUK MUKS.



WHAT
KEPT YOU,
FLYBOY?

BLONDE OR
REDHEAD?

DEEP AND
DREAMLESS.



1011?

DEICIDE?

SOMEBODY JUST
MURDERED A GOD ON
OUR WATCH.

TAKE A
LOOK FOR
YOURSELF.

RECOGNIZE
HIM?



ORION!

THE SOLDIER
GOD OF NEW
GENESIS.

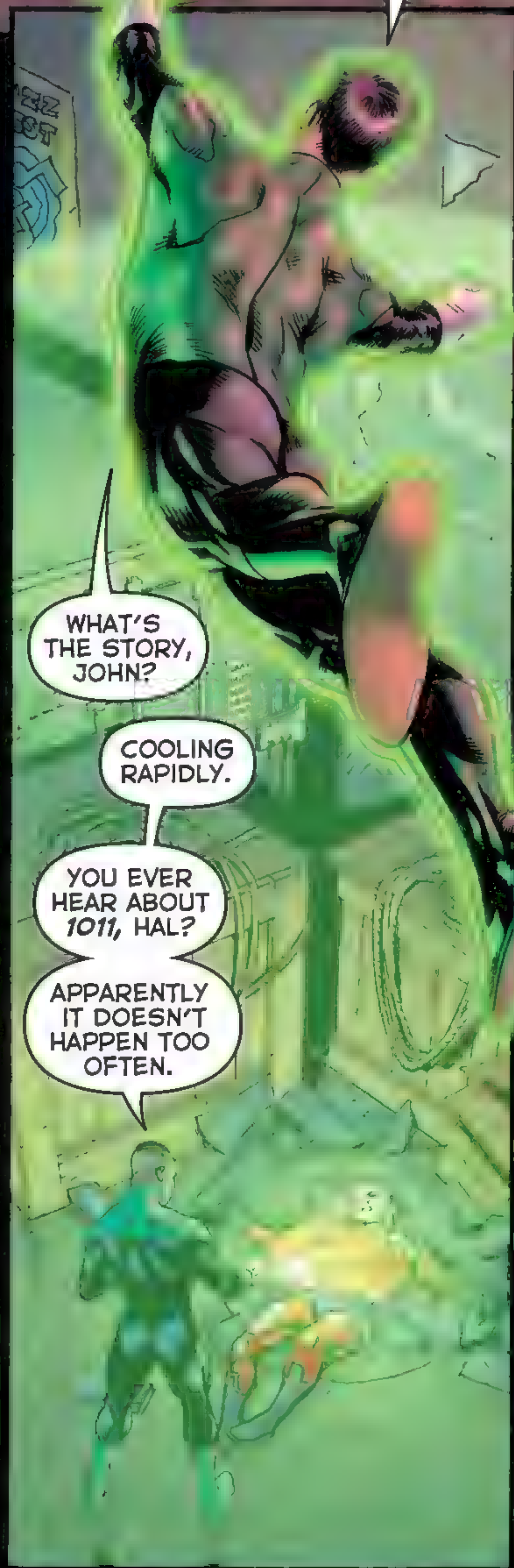
A-NUMBER
ONE, COSMIC
HARD-ASS.

YUP.



I'LL REPORT TO
THE GUARDIANS
ON OA.

YOU ALERT
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE.



WHAT'S
THE STORY,
JOHN?

COOLING
RAPIDLY.

YOU EVER
HEAR ABOUT
1011, HAL?

APPARENTLY
IT DOESN'T
HAPPEN TOO
OFTEN.

SEAL THE CRIME
SCENE AT 20,000
MILES ABOVE SEA
LEVEL.

NO ONE MUST
ENTER OR LEAVE
THE GRAVITY
WELL.

DUST FOR
RADIATION
PRINTS.

INTERROGATE
ALL POTENTIAL
SUSPECTS.

1011 REQUIRES
A VAST ENERGY
EXPENDITURE.

LOCATE THE
WEAPON.

WE REPEAT:
THIS IS A MATTER OF
UTMOST CONCERN.
LANTERN JORDAN
2814.1

A SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
ALPHA LANTERN
UNIT IS ON
ITS WAY.

PREPARE
TO MAKE
CONTACT.

SPECIAL
OPERATIONS?

HAL...
THESE NEW
GODS.

THEY
COME WITH
BAD GODS
TOO.





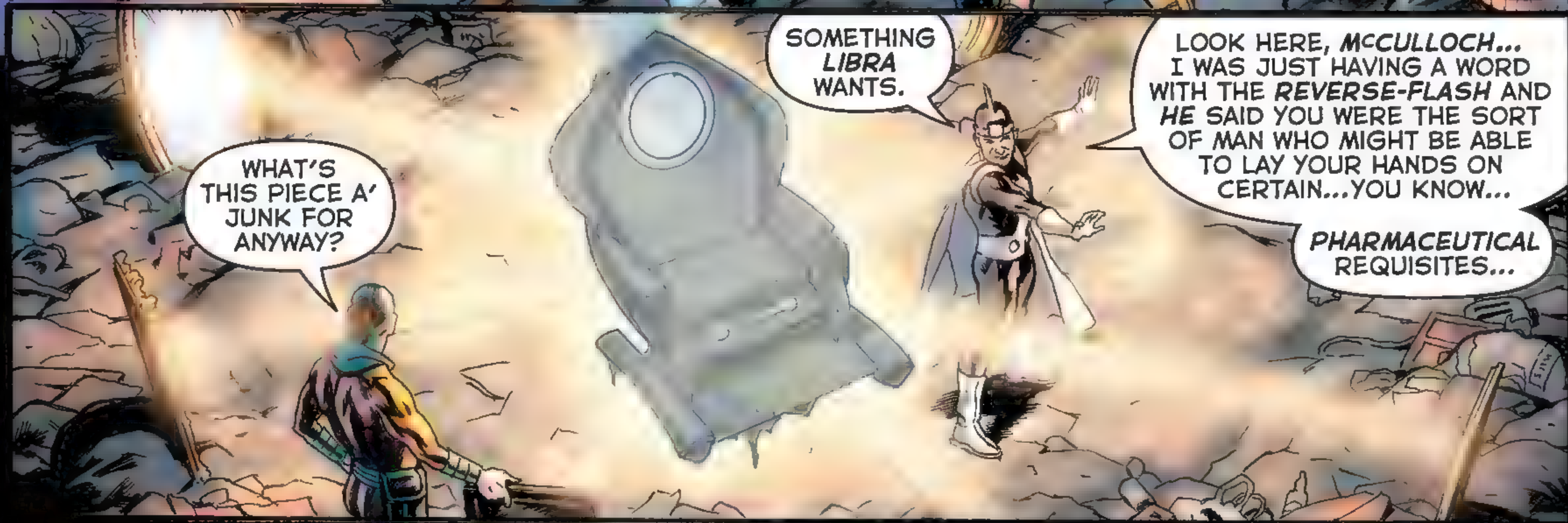
...YOU ATTACKED US WITH ZERO PROVOCATION, FASCIST!

THIRTY SUPERVILLAINS MARCHING UP MAIN STREET IS ZERO PROVOCATION?

THIS WAS A PROTEST MARCH AGAINST VIGILANTE BRUTALITY.

YOU BELIEVE THIS?

AND YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM MY LAWYER!

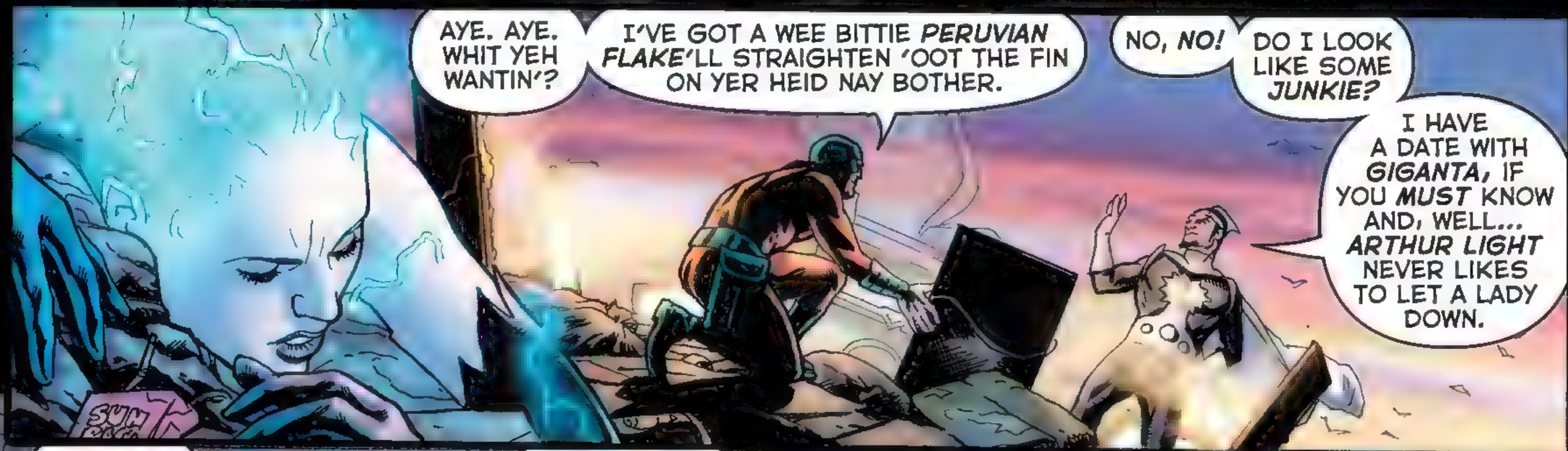


WHAT'S THIS PIECE A' JUNK FOR ANYWAY?

SOMETHING LIBRA WANTS.

LOOK HERE, MCCULLOCH... I WAS JUST HAVING A WORD WITH THE REVERSE-FLASH AND HE SAID YOU WERE THE SORT OF MAN WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON CERTAIN...YOU KNOW...

PHARMACEUTICAL REQUISITES...



AYE. AYE. WHIT YEH WANTIN'?

I'VE GOT A WEE BITTIE PERUVIAN FLAKE'LL STRAIGHTEN 'OOT THE FIN ON YER HEID NAY BOTHER.

NO, NO!

DO I LOOK LIKE SOME JUNKIE?

I HAVE A DATE WITH GIGANTA, IF YOU MUST KNOW AND, WELL... ARTHUR LIGHT NEVER LIKES TO LET A LADY DOWN.



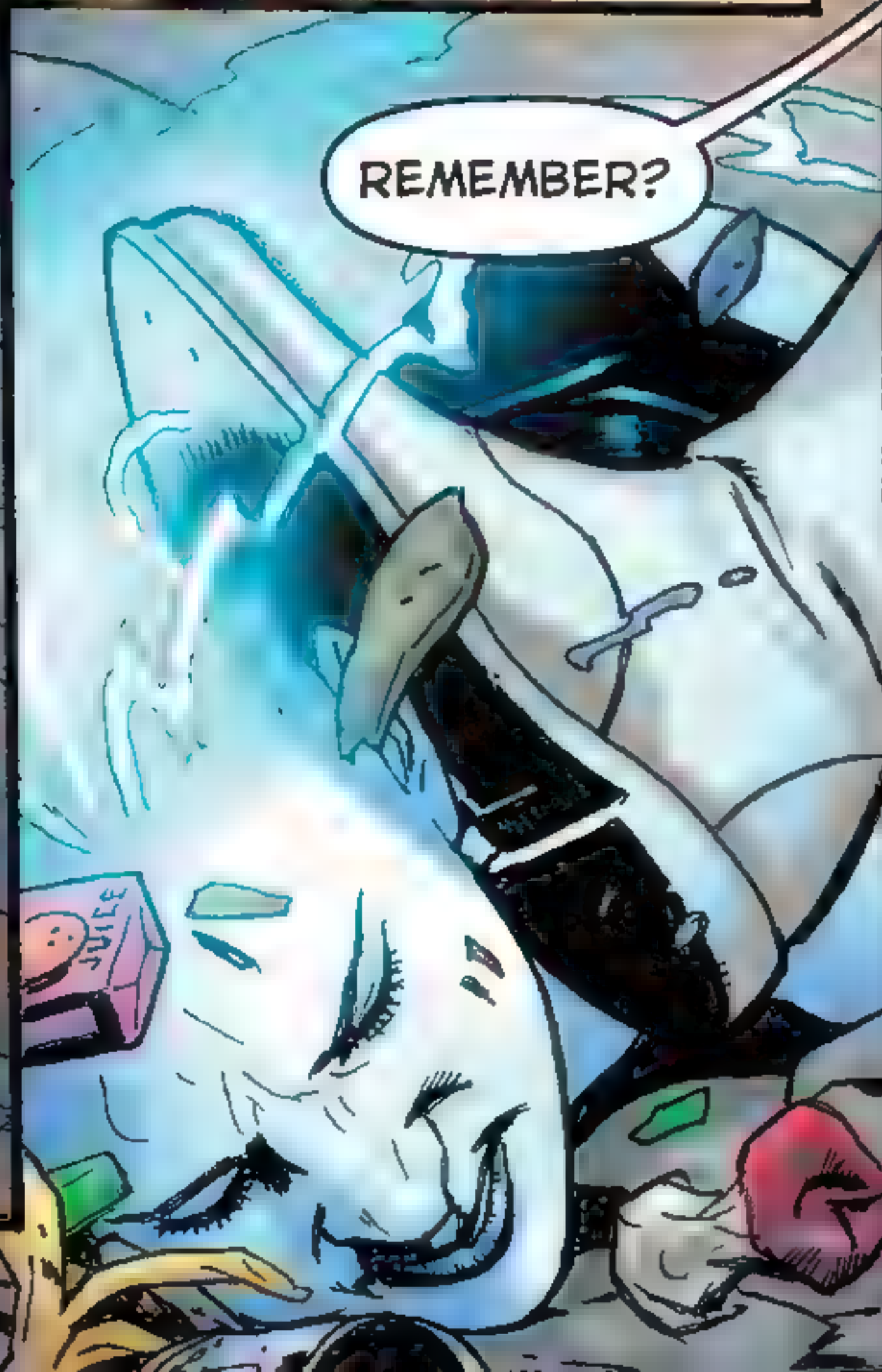
A DATE W/ GIGANTA!

THE MONSTER WUMMIN'?

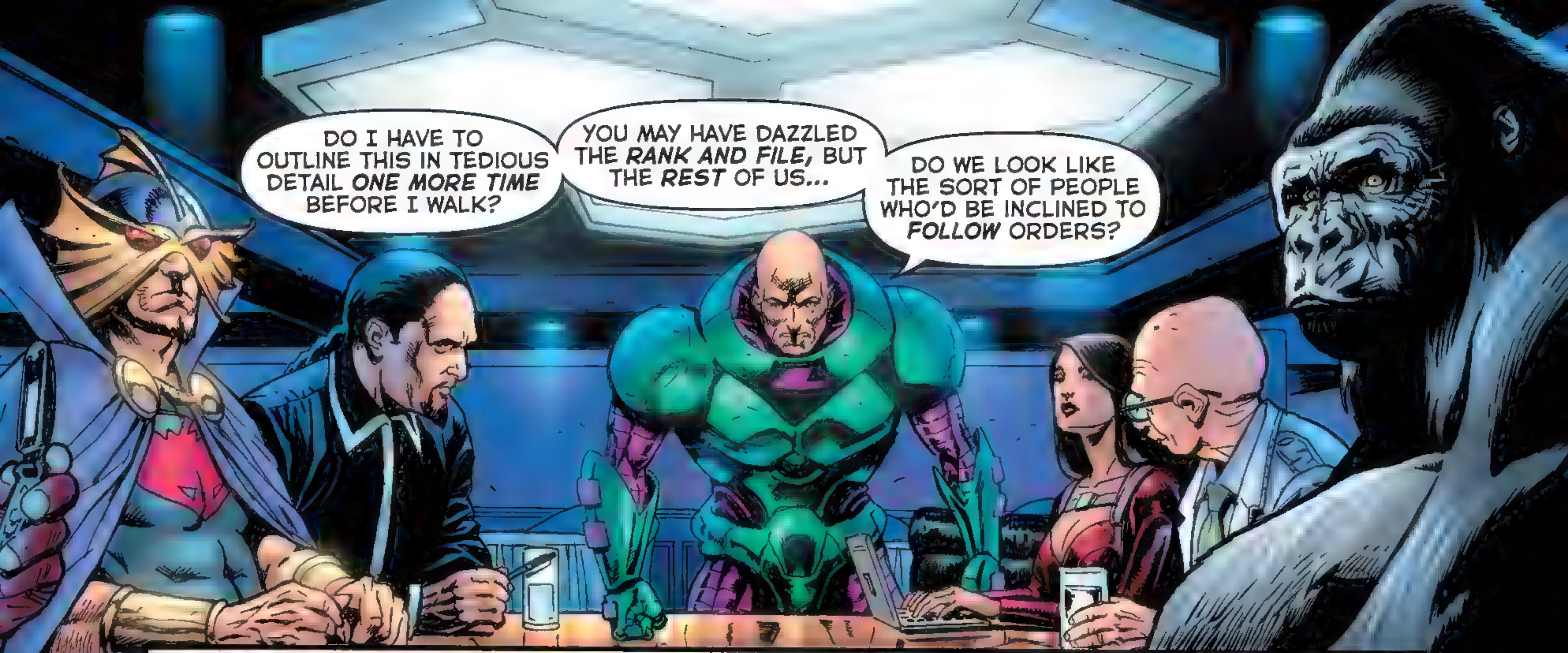
ENOUGH... OR I'M NEVER TEAMING UP WITH YOU AGAIN!

HOW ABOUT WE JUST DELIVER THE CHAIR TO LIBRA AND KEEP OUR PERSONAL LIVES PERSONAL!

WE'RE WORKING FOR LIBRA NOW AND WHAT LIBRA WANTS, LIBRA GETS.



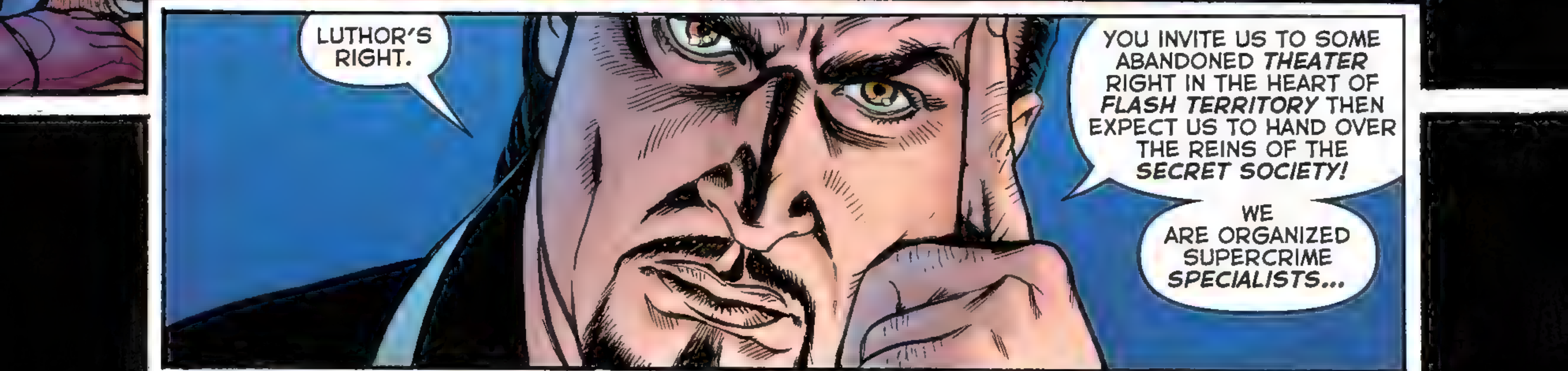
REMEMBER?



DO I HAVE TO
OUTLINE THIS IN TEDIOUS
DETAIL *ONE MORE TIME*
BEFORE I WALK?

YOU MAY HAVE DAZZLED
THE RANK AND FILE, BUT
THE REST OF US...

DO WE LOOK LIKE
THE SORT OF PEOPLE
WHO'D BE INCLINED TO
FOLLOW ORDERS?



LUTHOR'S
RIGHT.

YOU INVITE US TO SOME
ABANDONED *THEATER*
RIGHT IN THE HEART OF
FLASH TERRITORY THEN
EXPECT US TO HAND OVER
THE REINS OF THE
SECRET SOCIETY!

WE
ARE ORGANIZED
SUPERCRIIME
SPECIALISTS...



I DON'T WANT
TO TAKE YOUR PLACE
AT ALL, PLEASE...

BUT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
WAITING 50,000 YEARS FOR
VANDAL SAVAGE TO CRUSH
CIVILIZATION BENEATH HIS
BOOTHEEL.

EXCUSE ME
IF I...*heh...* STIFLE
A YAWN.

I AM NOT
AVERSE TO THE
TASTE OF HUMAN
FLESH, SIR!

SPOKEN
LIKE A *TRUE*
GENTLEMAN.

AND
WHO SAYS
I'M *HUMAN*,
ANYWAY?

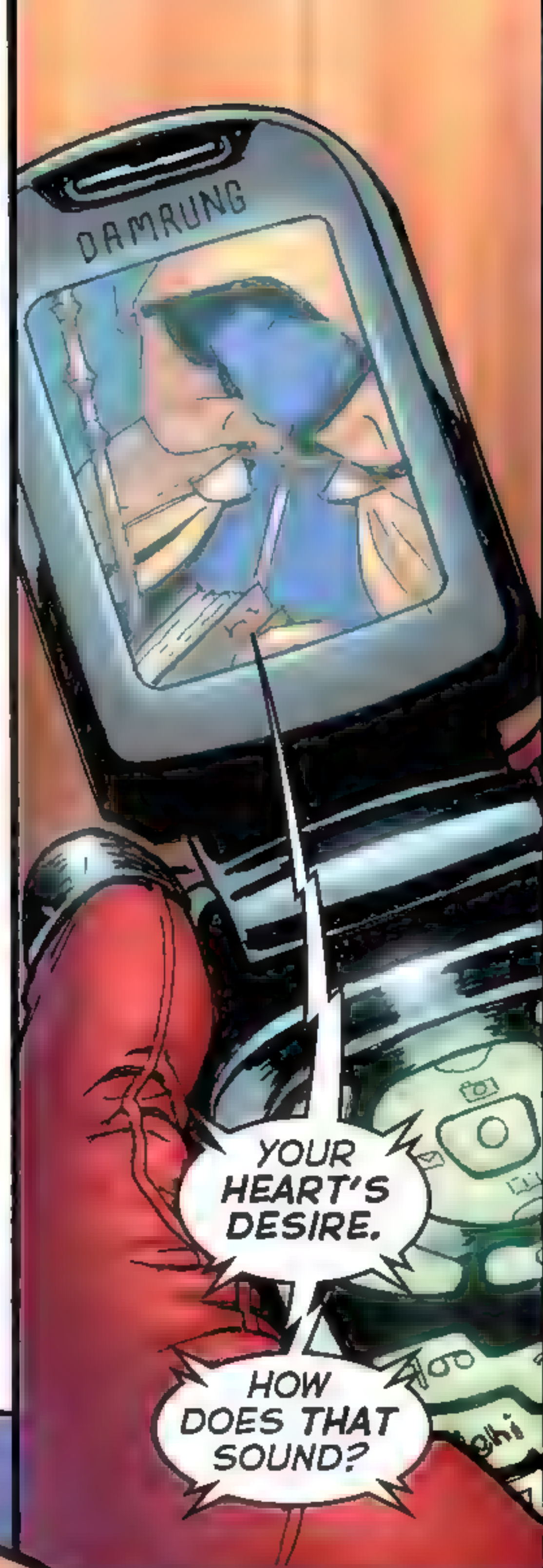
STRIKES ME
YOUR ENEMIES
FIGHT AND WIN AGAIN
AND AGAIN BECAUSE
THEY *TRULY* BELIEVE
THEIR ACTIONS ARE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH
A *HIGHER MORAL*
ORDER.



BUT WHAT
HAPPENS IN A WORLD
WHERE GOOD HAS
LOST ITS PERPETUAL
STRUGGLE AGAINST
EVIL?

GENTLEMEN,
YOU CAN CALL
ME *LIBRA*.

I BALANCE
THE SCALES.
I EVEN THE
ODDS.



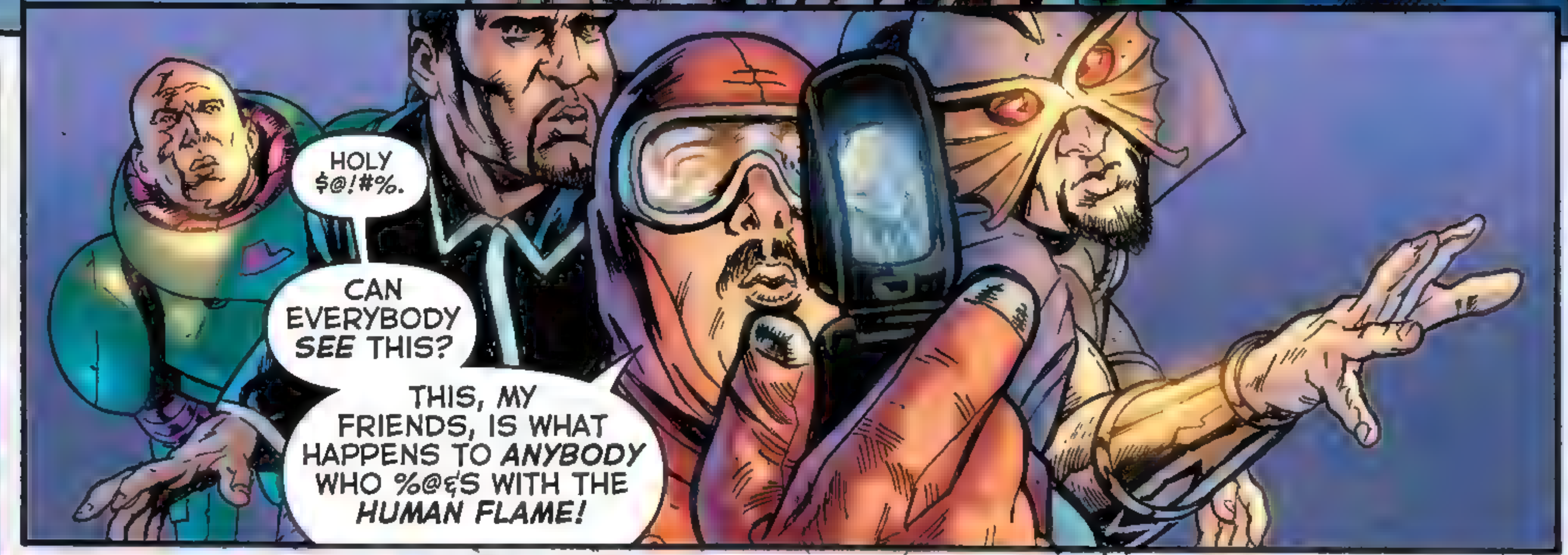


Heh!

HE'S STILL GROGGY FROM THE PYRO-TRANQUILIZERS.

KEEP HIM THAT WAY.

I'D HATE TO TAKE THIS ONE ON IN A FAIR FIGHT!



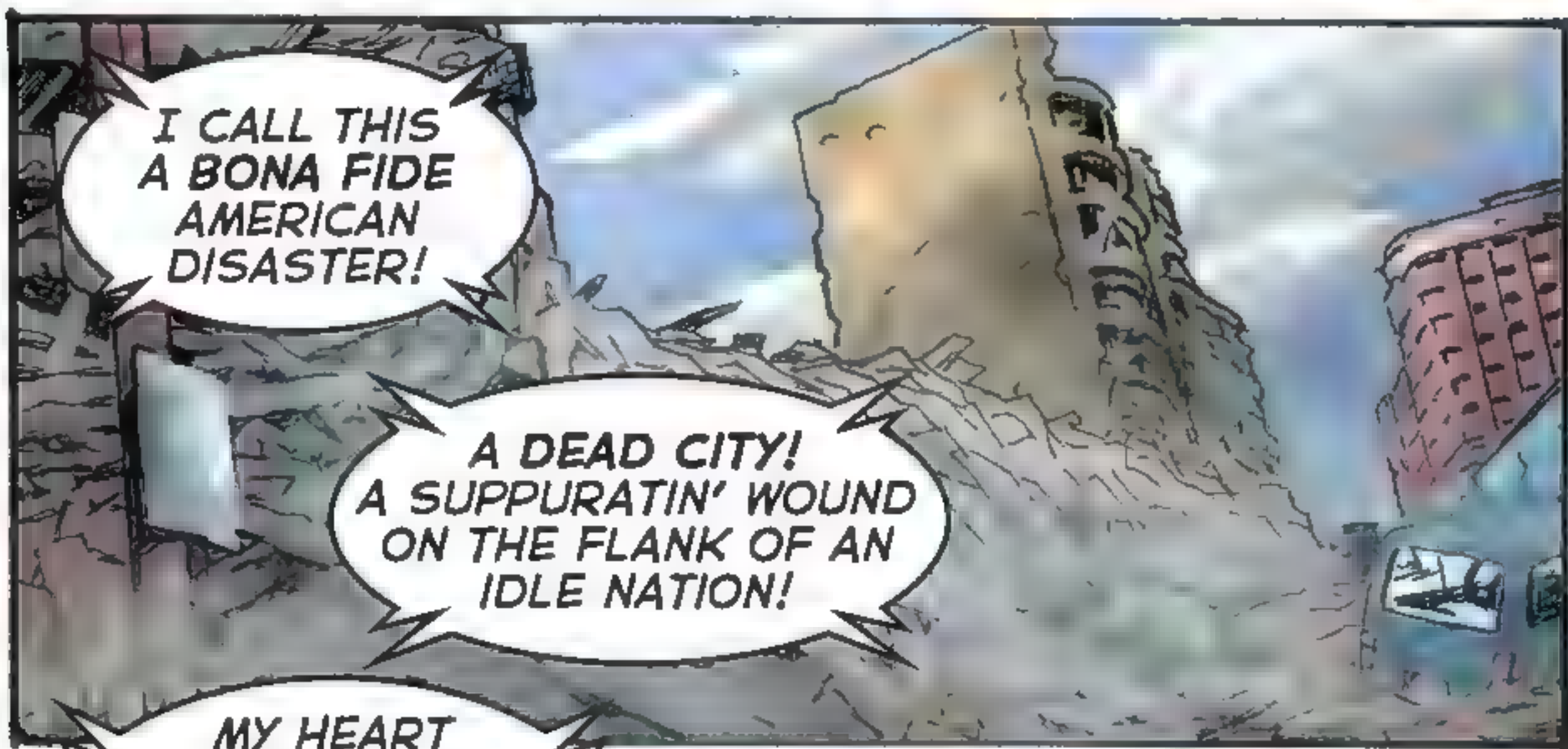
HOLY \$@!#%.

CAN EVERYBODY SEE THIS?

THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYBODY WHO %@&'S WITH THE HUMAN FLAME!



M'YRI'AH!



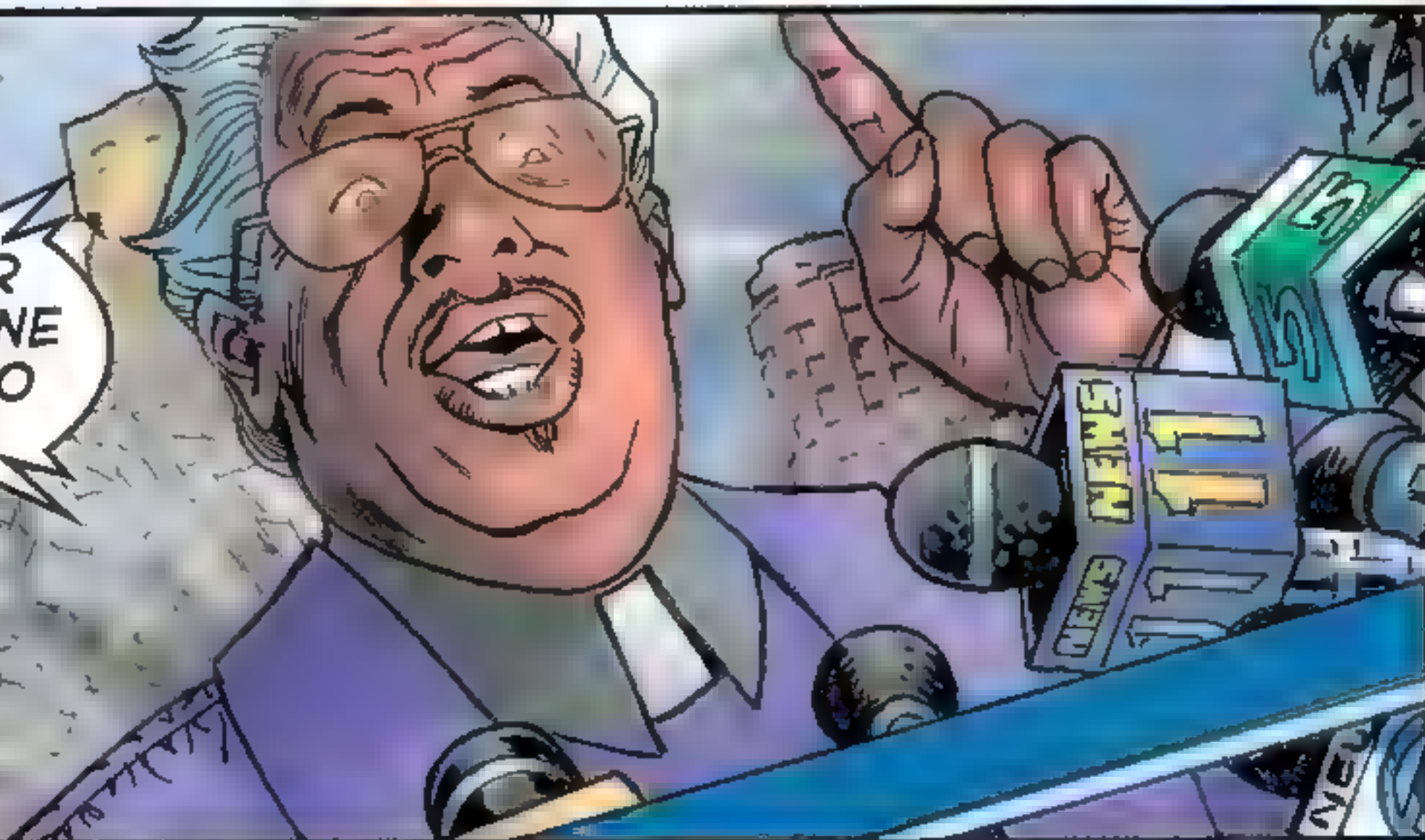
I CALL THIS
A BONA FIDE
AMERICAN
DISASTER!

A DEAD CITY!
A SUPPURATIN' WOUND
ON THE FLANK OF AN
IDLE NATION!

MY HEART
EXTENDS TO
EMBRACE ALL THOSE
POOR CITIZENS OF
BENIGHTED
BLÜDHAVEN.

ANOTHER YEAR
ON, AND NOT ONE
DAY CLOSER TO
SALVATION.

MAKE
NO MISTAKE, THE
MESSAGE RINGS
CLEAR!



IF YOU'RE POOR,
IF YOU'RE HOMELESS,
THEN YOU CAN RASSLE
THE MUTATIONS OUT
OF YOUR OWN
BACKYARD!



YOU
TURPIN?



SO.

YOU KNOW
MUCH ABOUT WHAT
GOES ON AT THE
DARK SIDE CLUB,
BUD?

I AIN'T YOUR
"BUD," AND IF YOU
CALL ME THAT ONE MORE
TIME YOU'LL BE CHOWING
DOWN ON YOUR OWN
LAST, BEST HOPE OF
FATHERING AN HEIR TO
THE TATTOOED MAN
FORTUNE.

LEMME GUESS:
IT'S SOMETHIN'
SAD AND STUPID
WITH WHIPS AND
LEATHER.



YOU'LL
SEE.



...Ahhh, THERE YOU ARE. COME IN, SIT DOWN.

TELL ME, MISTER TURPIN. *ṡkaffé*

HAVE WE MET?



CALL THE GOONS OFF.

I'M AN OLD MAN.

THESE BOYS WOULD HATE TO HAVE THEIR ASSES HANDED TO 'EM BY AN OLD MAN.



KALIBAK.

KANTO.

OUTSIDE.

BOSS "DARK SIDE," *huh?*
GUESS I EXPECTED SOMEBODY YOUNGER.



BODIES-- *ṡkurrffé*--THEY WEAR OUT HARD IN HERE.

AND ME, I WAS HURT IN A FALL, YOU MIGHT SAY.

BUT IT'S WHAT WE ENDURE THAT MAKES US STRONG, DON'T YOU THINK ?

MY FATHER USED TO SAY THE SAME THING.
SO YOU WANNA TELL ME HOW COME MY MISSING KIDS TRAIL LEADS RIGHT TO YOU?



HOW COULD IT NOT?



AS FOR THE CHILDREN...

I GAVE THEM TO GRANNY.



HUMANITY'S BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

ITS YOUNG.

ITS LIFE FORCE.

Ahhh.



THERE WAS
A WAR IN HEAVEN,
MISTER TURPIN,
AND I WON.

YOUR
FUTURE
BELONGS TO
DARK SIDE
NOW.

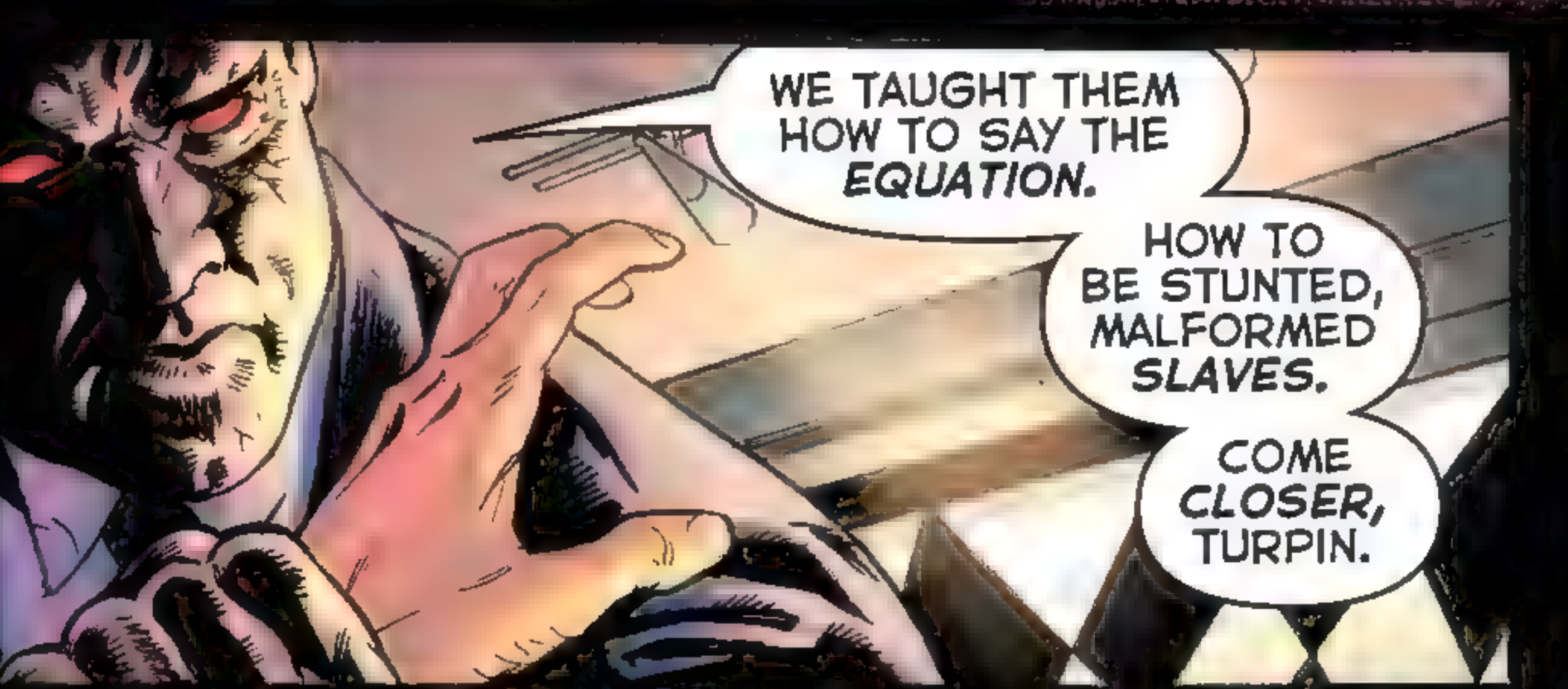


WHAT DID
YOU DO TO THOSE
KIDS, YOU SICK
BASTARD!

REMOVE
YOUR
HAND.



GHHNN!



WE TAUGHT THEM
HOW TO SAY THE
EQUATION.

HOW TO
BE STUNTED,
MALFORMED
SLAVES.

COME
CLOSER,
TURPIN.



I CAN USE
YOU.

THERE.

IT'S BEST THAT
YOU SEE THE FACE
OF THE NEW MODEL
HUMAN FROM YOUR
KNEES.

NO.



THEY
ARE BEYOND
SALVATION.

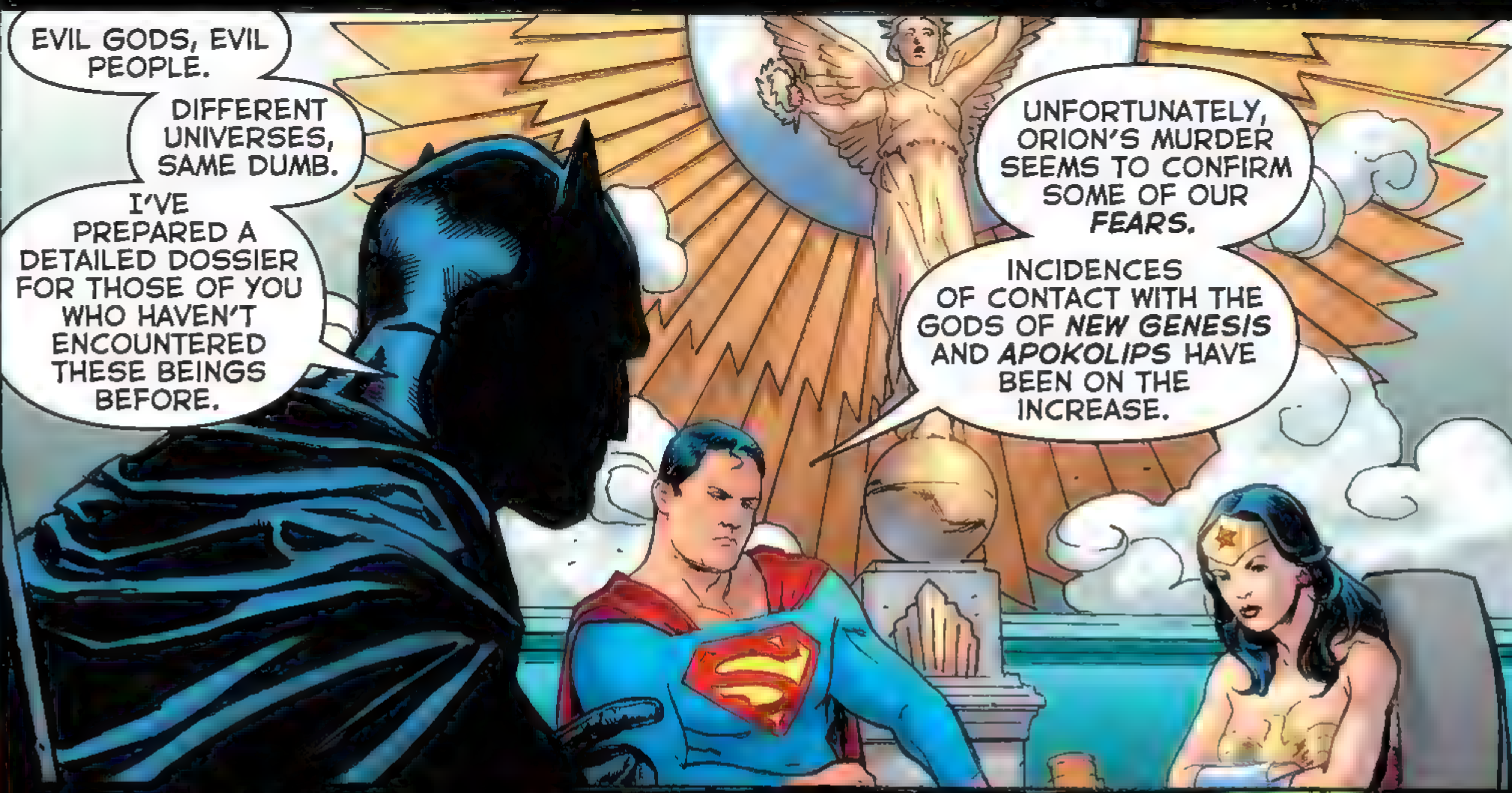
CHILDREN...



SHOW HIM
WHAT YOU'VE
LEARNED ABOUT
ANTI-LIFE.



AS GREEN LANTERN JUST EXPLAINED, GUARDIAN ARCHIVES DESCRIBE ORION AND HIS PEOPLE AS "NEW GODS," WHICH OUGHT TO GIVE YOU SOME INDICATION OF THE POWER LEVELS WE'RE DEALING WITH.



EVIL GODS, EVIL PEOPLE.

DIFFERENT UNIVERSES, SAME DUMB.

I'VE PREPARED A DETAILED DOSSIER FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED THESE BEINGS BEFORE.

UNFORTUNATELY, ORION'S MURDER SEEMS TO CONFIRM SOME OF OUR FEARS.

INCIDENCES OF CONTACT WITH THE GODS OF NEW GENESIS AND APOKOLIPS HAVE BEEN ON THE INCREASE.



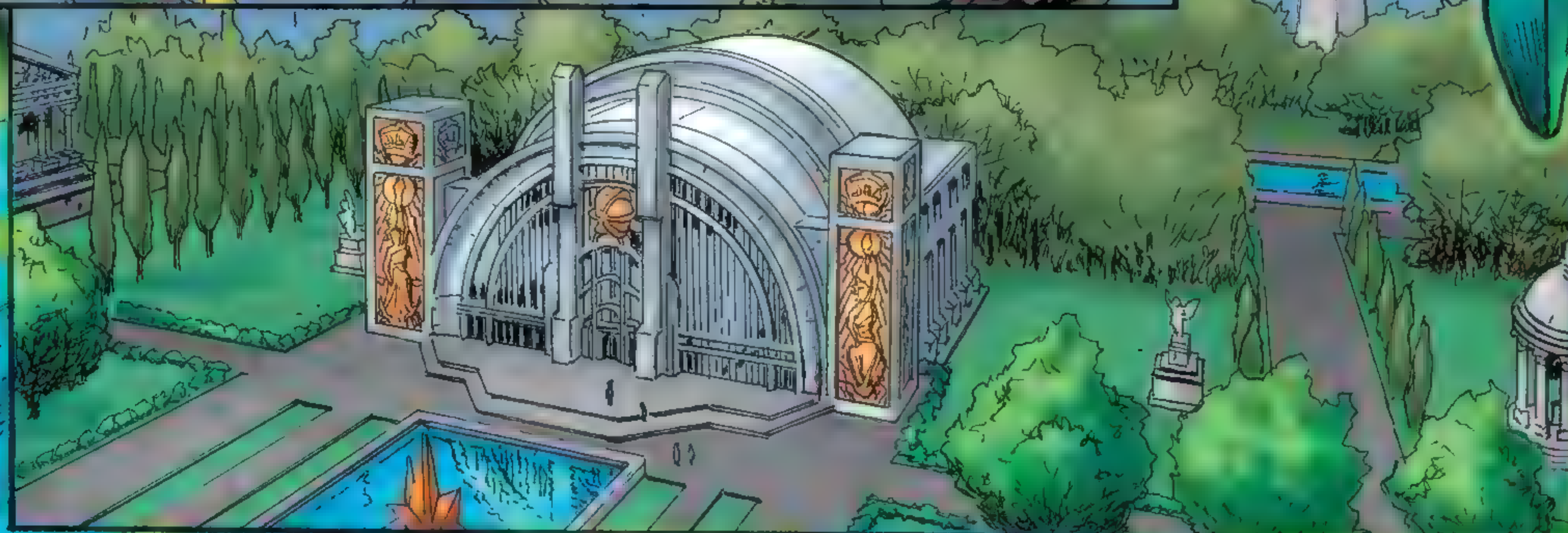
IF THE EVIL GODS ARE ANYWHERE ON EARTH, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE FIND THEM BEFORE THEY STRIKE.

AGREED.



THESE ARE CELESTIALS CAPABLE OF CRACKING THE PLANET IN HALF AND ENSLAVING BILLIONS.

JUSTICE LEAGUE CONDITION AMBER.



ALPHA LANTERN GREEN MAN.

ALPHA LANTERN BOODIKKA.

ALPHA LANTERN VARIX.

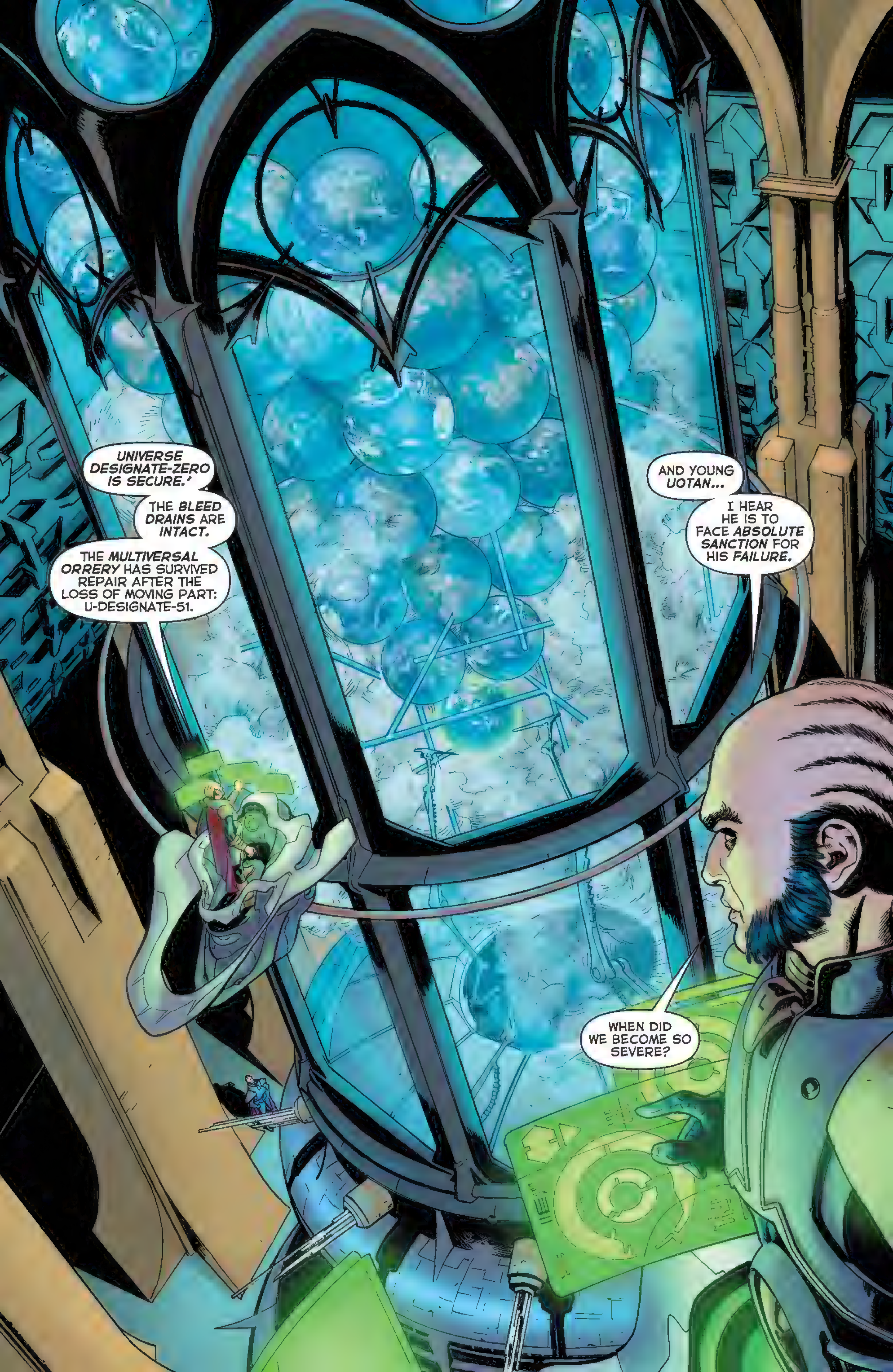
SECURE THE CRIME SCENE!



THERE.

NEW EARTH.

THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ALL EXISTENCE.



UNIVERSE
DESIGNATE-ZERO
IS SECURE.'

THE BLEED
DRAINS ARE
INTACT.

THE MULTIVERSAL
ORRERY HAS SURVIVED
REPAIR AFTER THE
LOSS OF MOVING PART:
U-DESIGNATE-51.

AND YOUNG
UTAN...

I HEAR
HE IS TO
FACE ABSOLUTE
SANCTION FOR
HIS FAILURE.

WHEN DID
WE BECOME SO
SEVERE?



MULTIVERSAL
MONITOR NIX
UOTAN--

--THERE IS ONLY
ONE PENALTY FOR
A MONITOR WHOSE
NEGLECTANCE ENDANGERS
THE ORRERY OF
WORLDS.

I ARRIVED
TOO LATE TO SAVE
EARTH 51.

THERE WAS
SABOTAGE,
I SWEAR.

THE
SENTENCE
IS EXILE.

YOU WILL BE STRIPPED
OF YOUR DUTIES, YOUR
POWERS AND YOUR WORD
OF ATTENTION.

YOU WILL LIVE
OUT YOUR DAYS AS A
HUMBLE, MORTAL GERM...
AND DIE TO FEED THE
ORRERY.

BUT CONSIDER HIS
YOUTH, PRIME MONITOR
TAHOTEH!



NO!

IT'S
NOT HIS
FAULT!

SILENCE!

WE ARE
MULTIVERSAL
MONITORS,
ANCIENT AND
WISE!



I'LL FIND
A WAY BACK TO
YOU, WEEJA
DELL!

I PROMISE
I'LL FIND A WAY
BACKKKK



I CAN'T
WATCH
THIS!

FORGIVE ME,
WEEJA DELL.

I TRIED TO
SPEAK IN HIS
DEFENSE.



JUSTICE
IS DONE.

MAY THE
ORRERY
ENDURE.

AS IT WAS
EVER DONE,
SO SHALL IT BE
DONE AGAIN!



WEEJA
DELL,
WAIT!

WHY?

HE TRIED
TO SAVE THE
ORRERY NOT TO
HARM IT!

WHY
THIS?

WHY DO
I CARE?

WEEJA DELL,
BEHOLD: WE MONITORS,
WHO WERE FACELESS
ONCE...

WE ALL NOW
HAVE NAMES AND
STORIES.

THERE ARE
HEROES AND
VILLAINS...SECRETS
AND LOVERS.



IT'S TRUE...
I...NEVER FELT
ANYTHING
BEFORE!

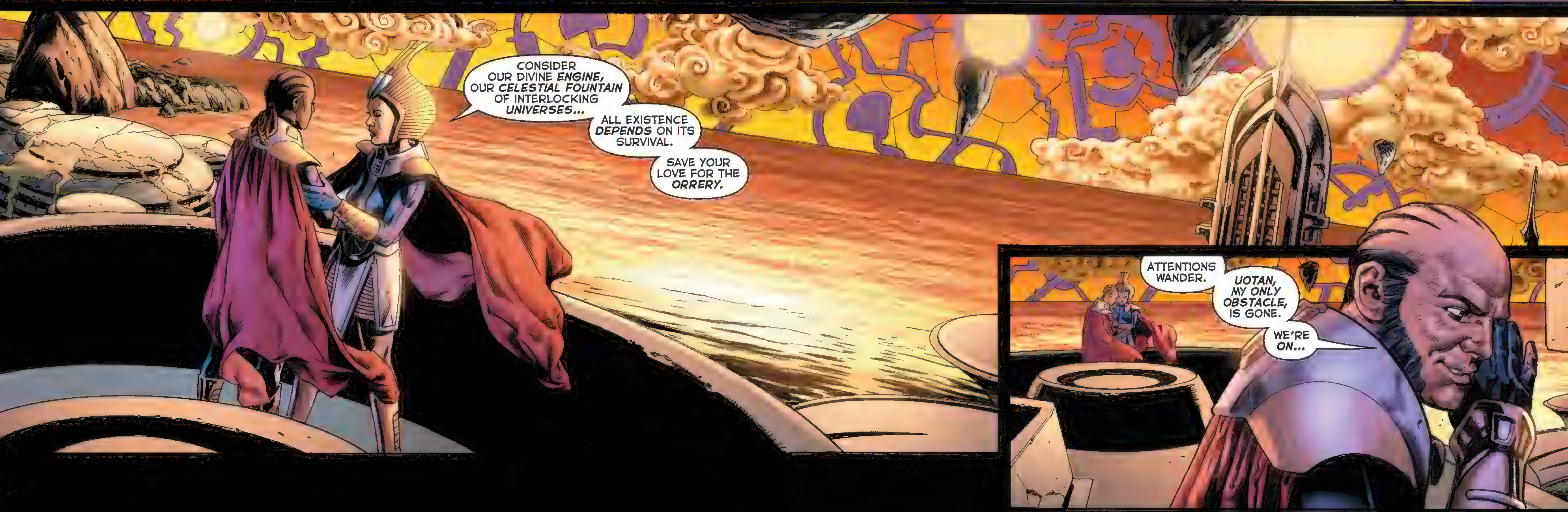
NOW I...
I'M...
CRYING...

ZILLO
VALLA?

OGAMA FEARS WE HAVE
BECOME CONTAMINATED DURING
CONTACT WITH THE OBSCURE
LIFEFORMS THAT GROW WITHIN
THE WORKINGS OF
THE ORRERY.

THROUGH
THEM, TIME
HAS ENTERED
OUR TIMELESS
WORLD.

BEGINNINGS
AND ENDINGS.



CONSIDER
OUR DIVINE ENGINE,
OUR CELESTIAL FOUNTAIN
OF INTERLOCKING
UNIVERSES...

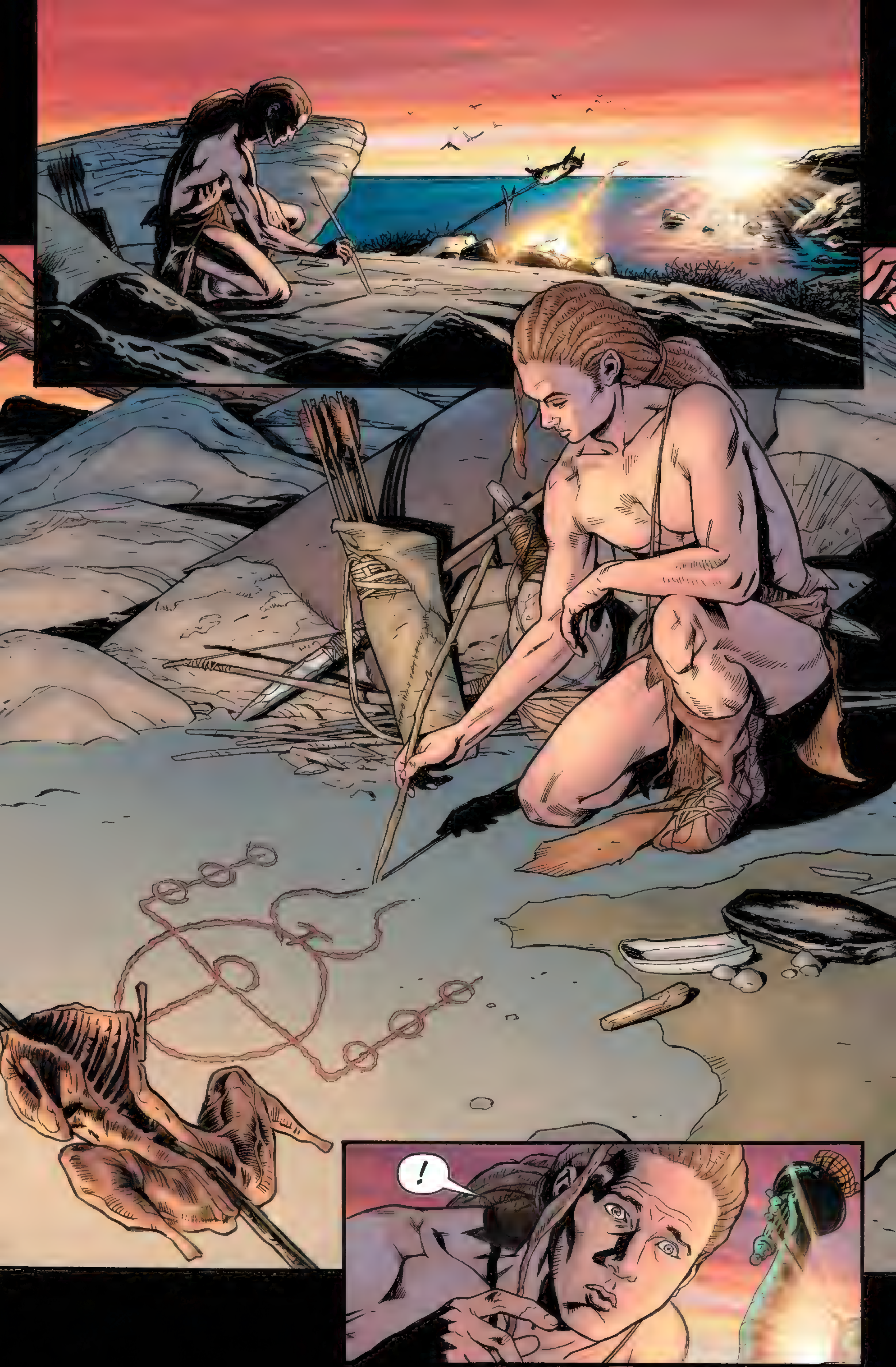
ALL EXISTENCE
DEPENDS ON ITS
SURVIVAL.

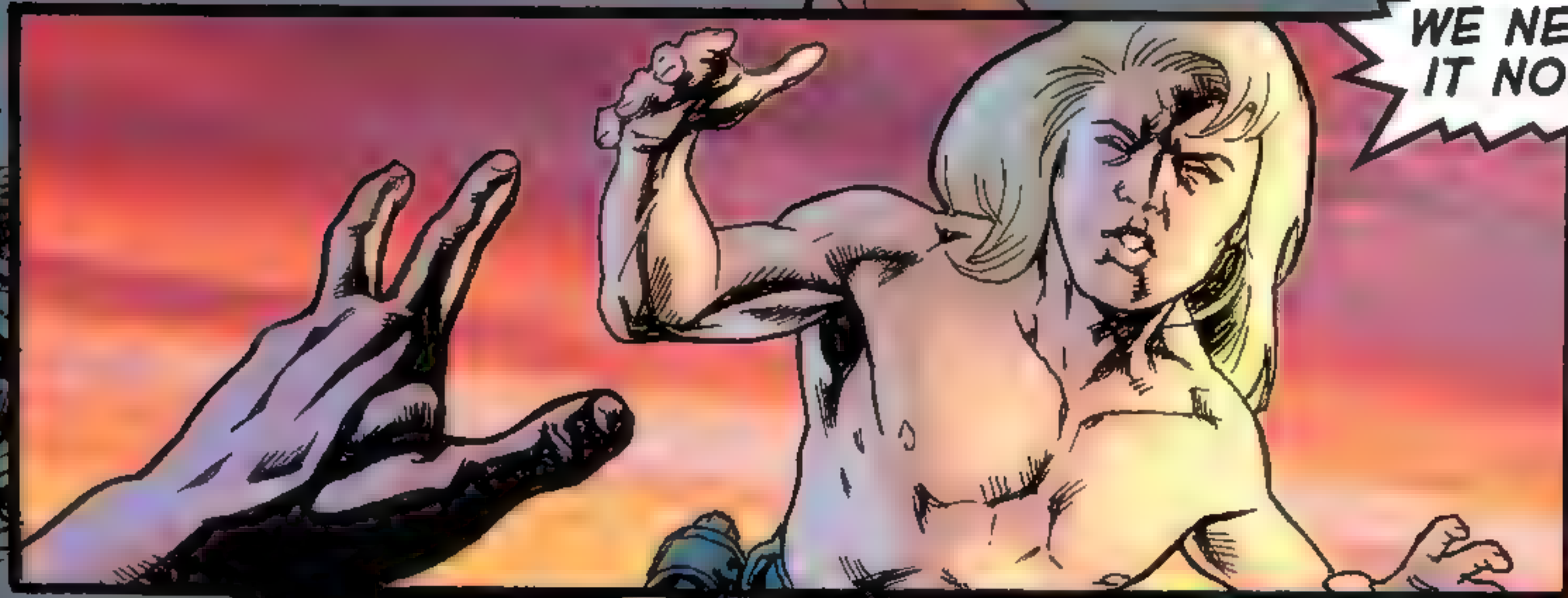
SAVE YOUR
LOVE FOR THE
ORRERY.

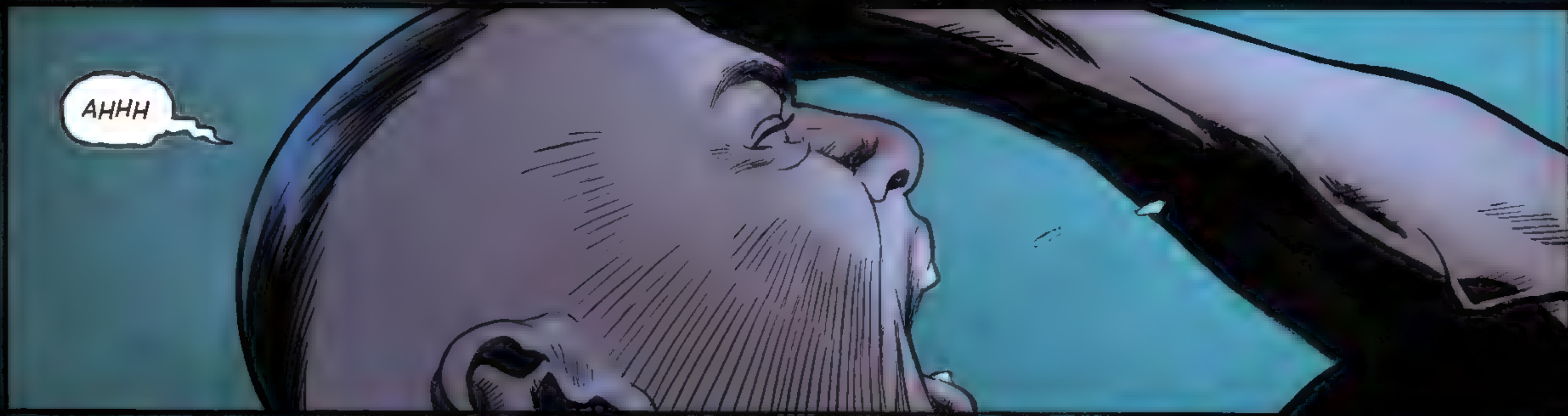
ATTENTIONS
WANDER.

UOTAN,
MY ONLY
OBSTACLE,
IS GONE.

WE'RE
ON...







AHHH



AWW, MAN.

9:15?

I AM IN SUCH DEEP...



...DEEP...

WHO HE WAS A VALUED FRIEND AND COMRADE...

@%& THAT! WHOEVER DID THIS TO J'ONN WILL SUFFER, YOU HEAR ME! WILL SUFFER!



THE SUPERHERO COMMUNITY REACTS TO THE HORRIFIC MURDER OF J'ONN J'ONZZ, THE MANHUNTER FROM MARS.

MORE AFTER THE BREAK...



TICKET TO BLUDHAVEN

GRANT MORRISON

writer

J.G. JONES

artist

ALEX SINCLAIR

colorist

ROB LEIGH

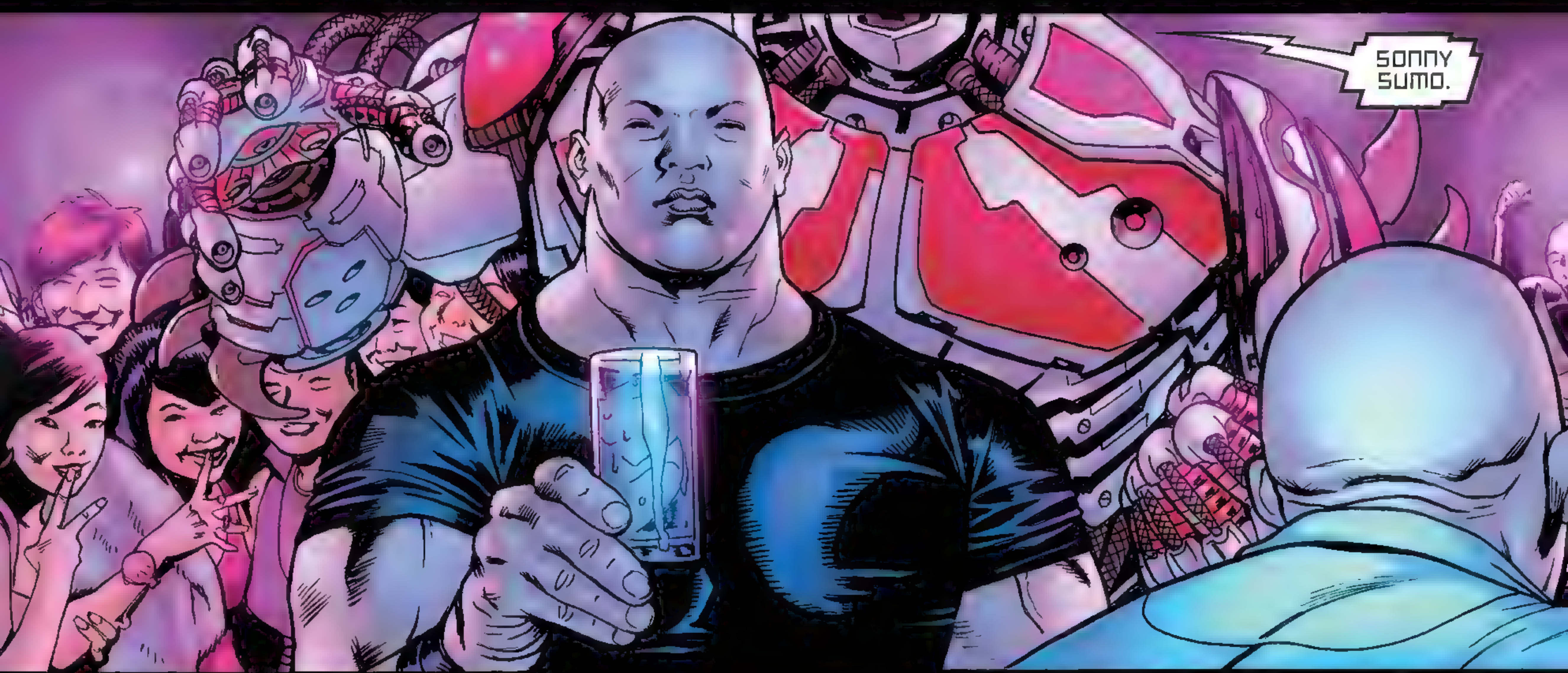
letterer

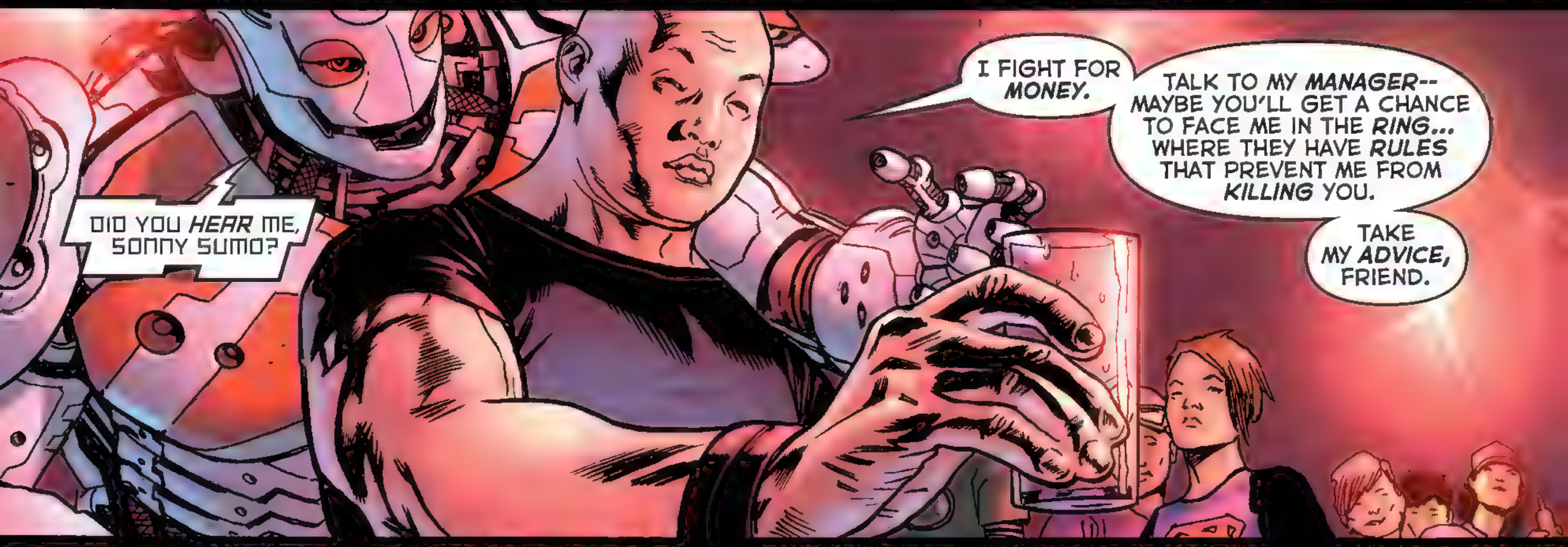
J.G. JONES

cover artist







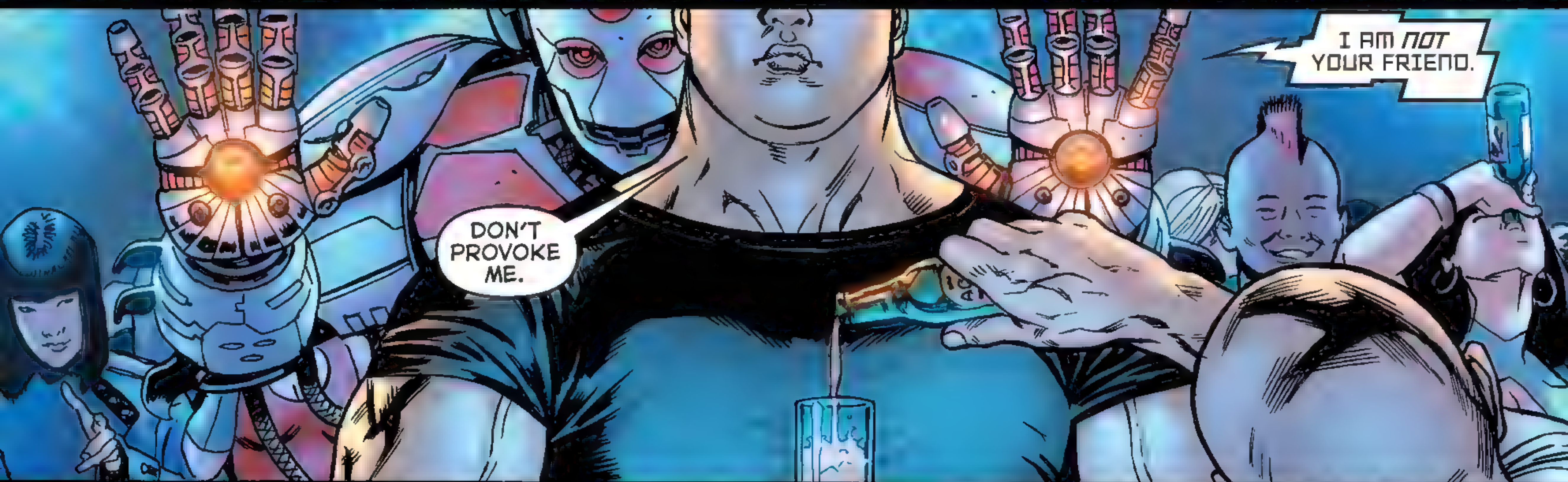


DID YOU HEAR ME,
SONNY SUMO?

I FIGHT FOR
MONEY.

TALK TO MY MANAGER--
MAYBE YOU'LL GET A CHANCE
TO FACE ME IN THE RING...
WHERE THEY HAVE RULES
THAT PREVENT ME FROM
KILLING YOU.

TAKE
MY ADVICE,
FRIEND.



DON'T
PROVOKE
ME.

I AM *NOT*
YOUR FRIEND.

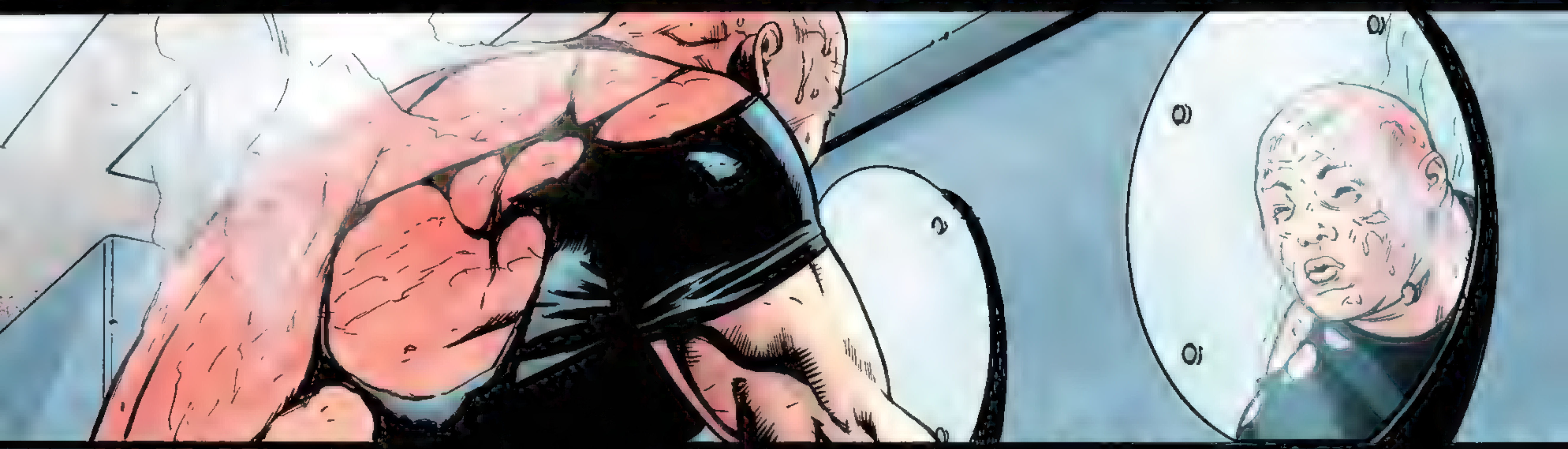
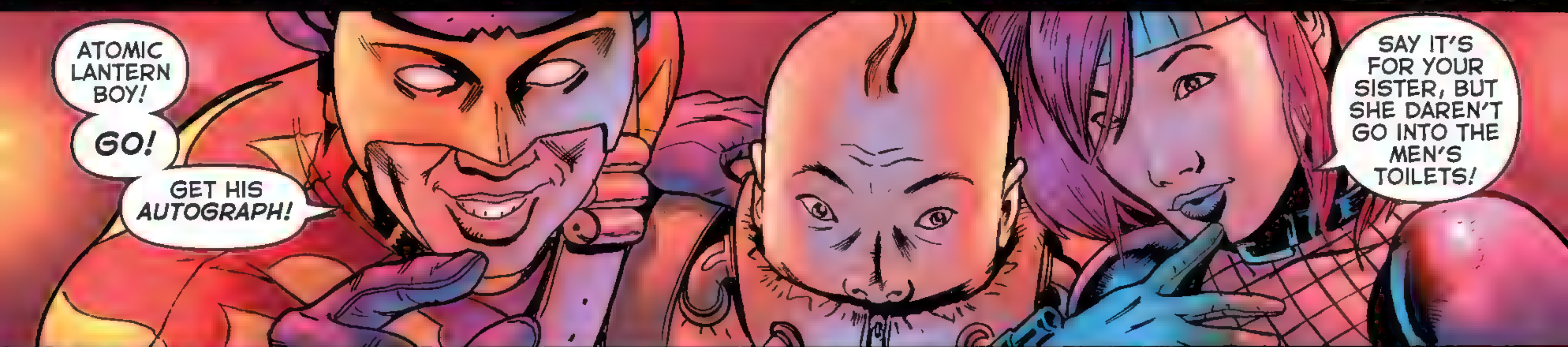


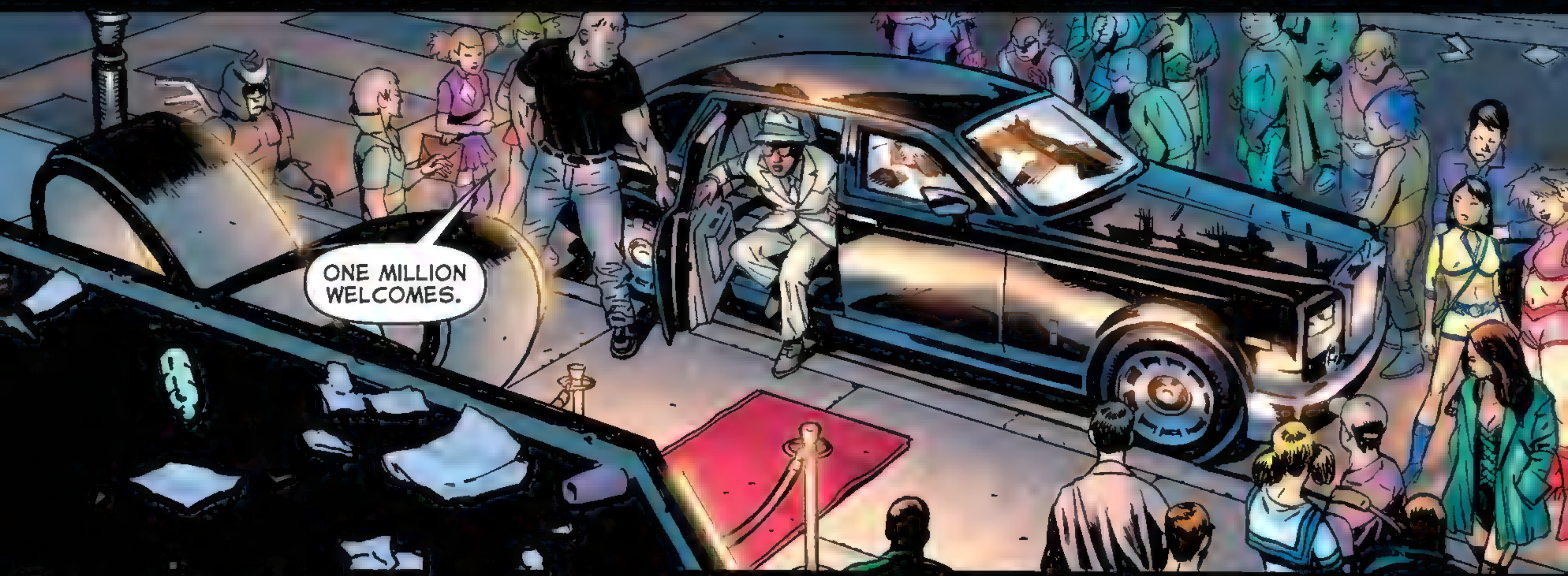
I AM
MEGAYAKUZA!

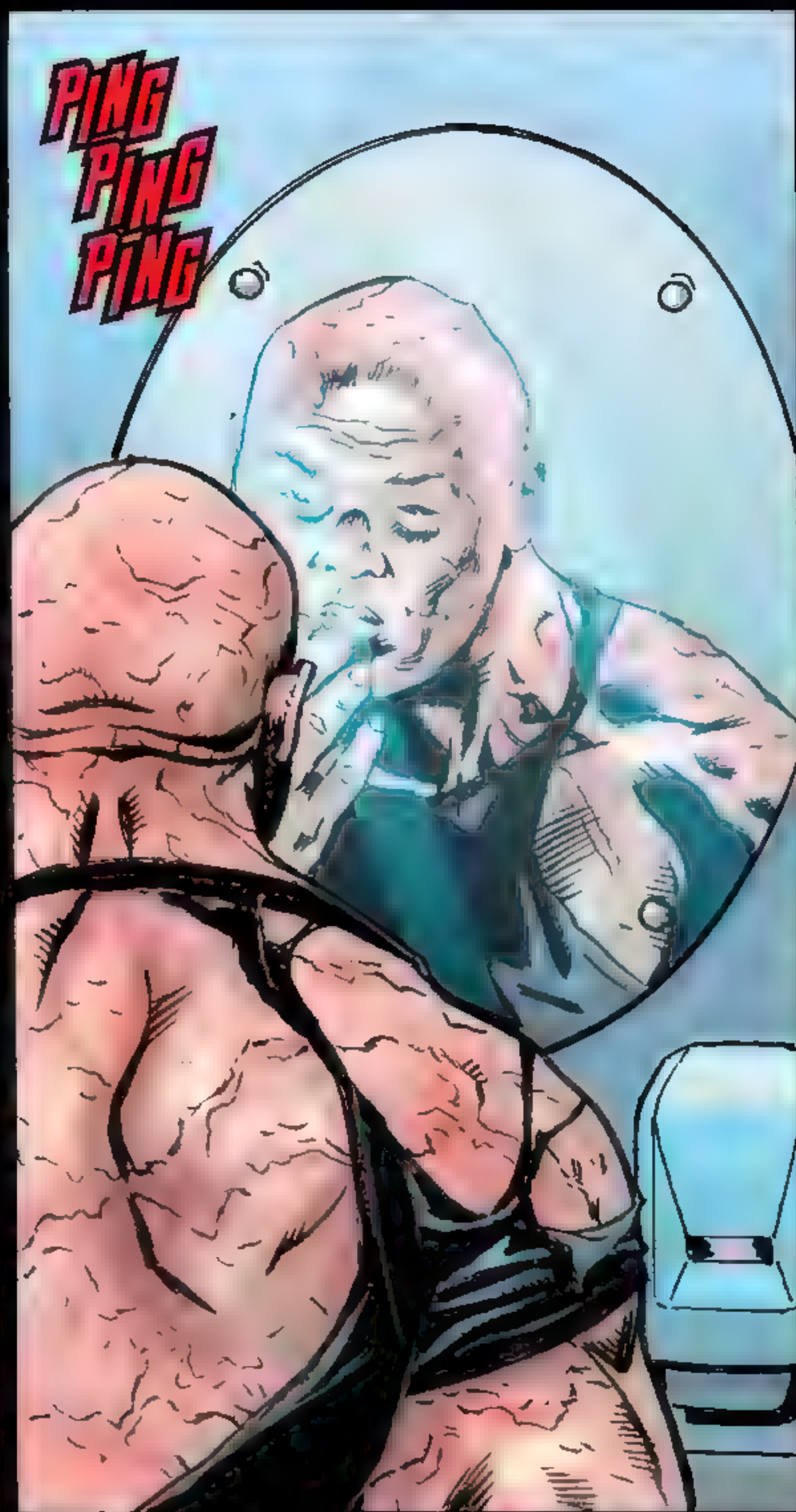


AND YOU
WILL FIGHT
ME.

COWARD.







PING
PING
PING



DIDN'T
YOU HEAR
ME?

I SAID
OUT!

PING
PING
PING

SONNY
SUMO.



PING
PING
PING

MY NAME'S
SHILO
NORMAN.

ON STAGE,
THEY CALL ME
MISTER
MIRACLE.

THE
SOUND.

I KNOW THAT
SOUND.

AND MY
SKIN...



MOTHERBOXXX
LED ME TO YOU.

SHE'S ABOUT
THE ONLY THING
LEFT AFTER THE
WAR, SEE? THERE
WAS A COSMIC
WAR...

AND THE
POWERS OF
EVIL WON.



AND I KNOW
HOW THIS SOUNDS,
BUT THEY'RE HERE,
AMONG US, NOW.

I WAS KINDA
HOPING YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO HELP ME PUT
SOME KIND OF TEAM
TOGETHER...

WOWWW...

DOES
THIS COUNT
AS ANOTHER
TIME?



BEDAZZLE

BEDLAM



CATHEXIS

CATHODE

...AND THEN I WAS, LIKE, BEING JUDGED BY THESE SUPER-PEOPLE WHO BUILT THE MACHINE MADE OF PARALLEL UNIVERSES.



AND THEY SENTENCED ME TO SOME KIND OF EXILE RIGHT HERE ON EARTH... AND...

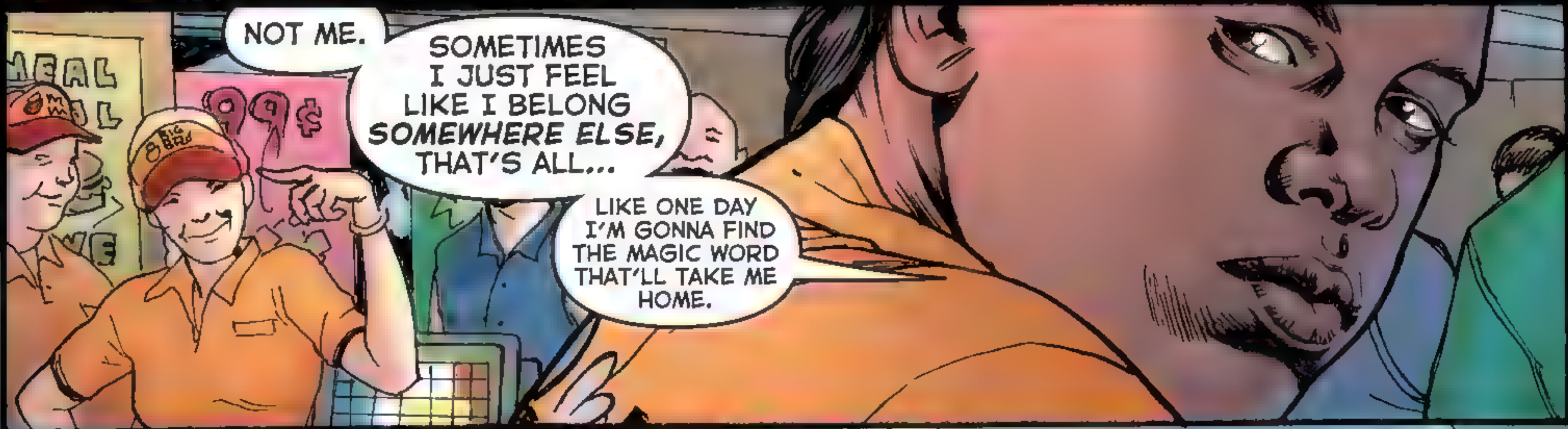
AND THAT'S WHEN I WOKE UP.



ENOUGH. I ONLY ASKED IF YOU DREAM IN COLOR.

...EXCUSE MY STONER FRIEND.

YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE?



NOT ME.

SOMETIMES I JUST FEEL LIKE I BELONG SOMEWHERE ELSE, THAT'S ALL...

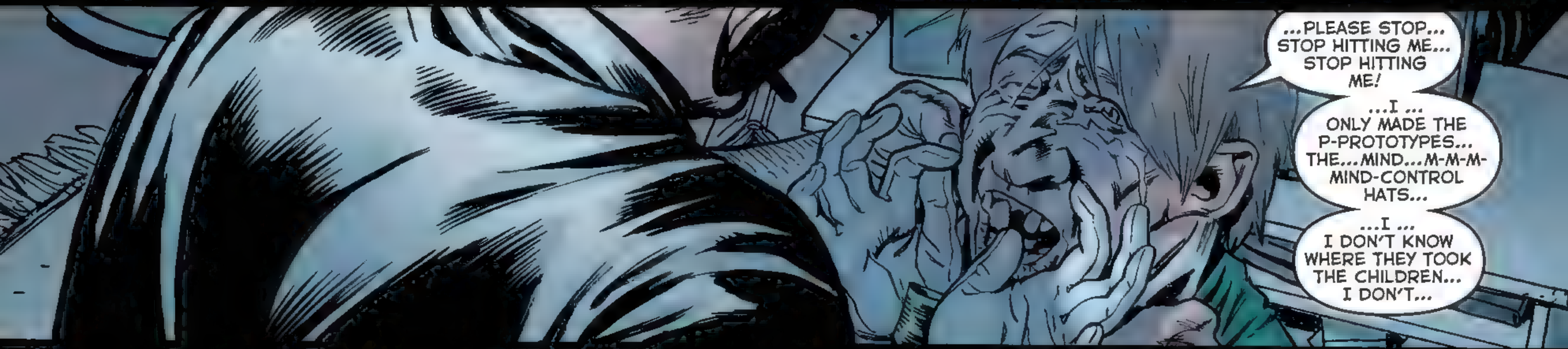
LIKE ONE DAY I'M GONNA FIND THE MAGIC WORD THAT'LL TAKE ME HOME.

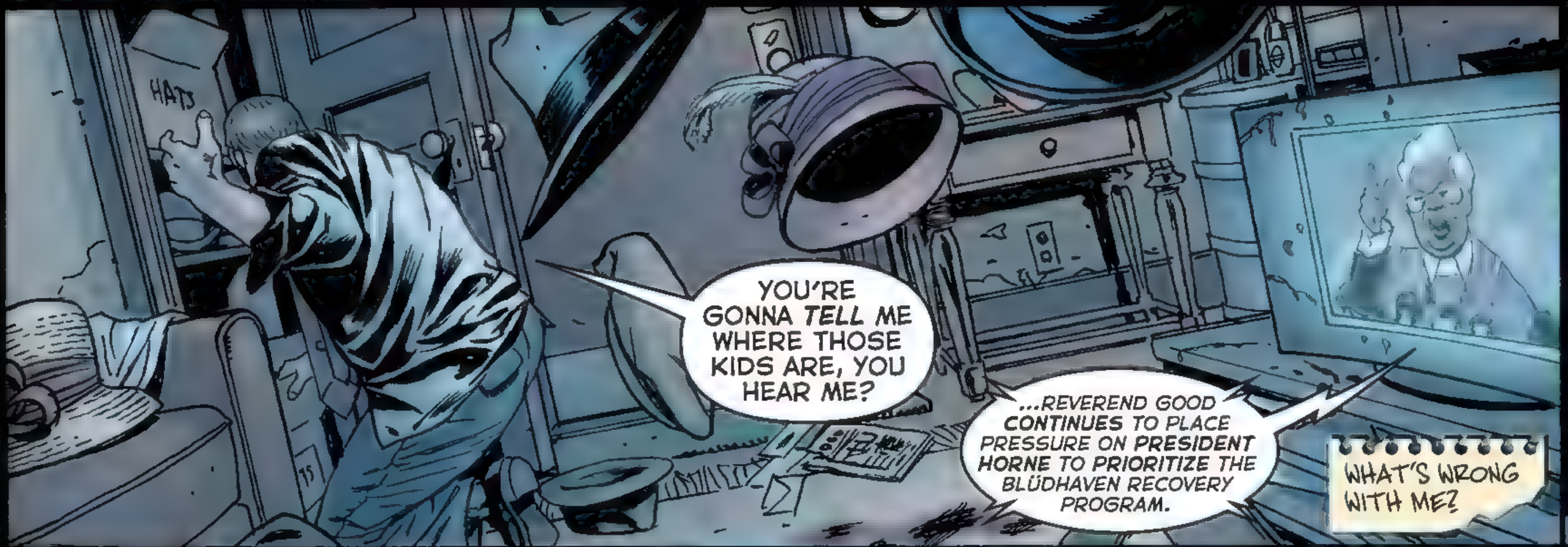


CRIMINAL

CRIMSON

CRINKLE





YOU'RE
GONNA TELL ME
WHERE THOSE
KIDS ARE, YOU
HEAR ME?

...REVEREND GOOD
CONTINUES TO PLACE
PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT
HORNE TO PRIORITIZE THE
BLÜDHAVEN RECOVERY
PROGRAM.

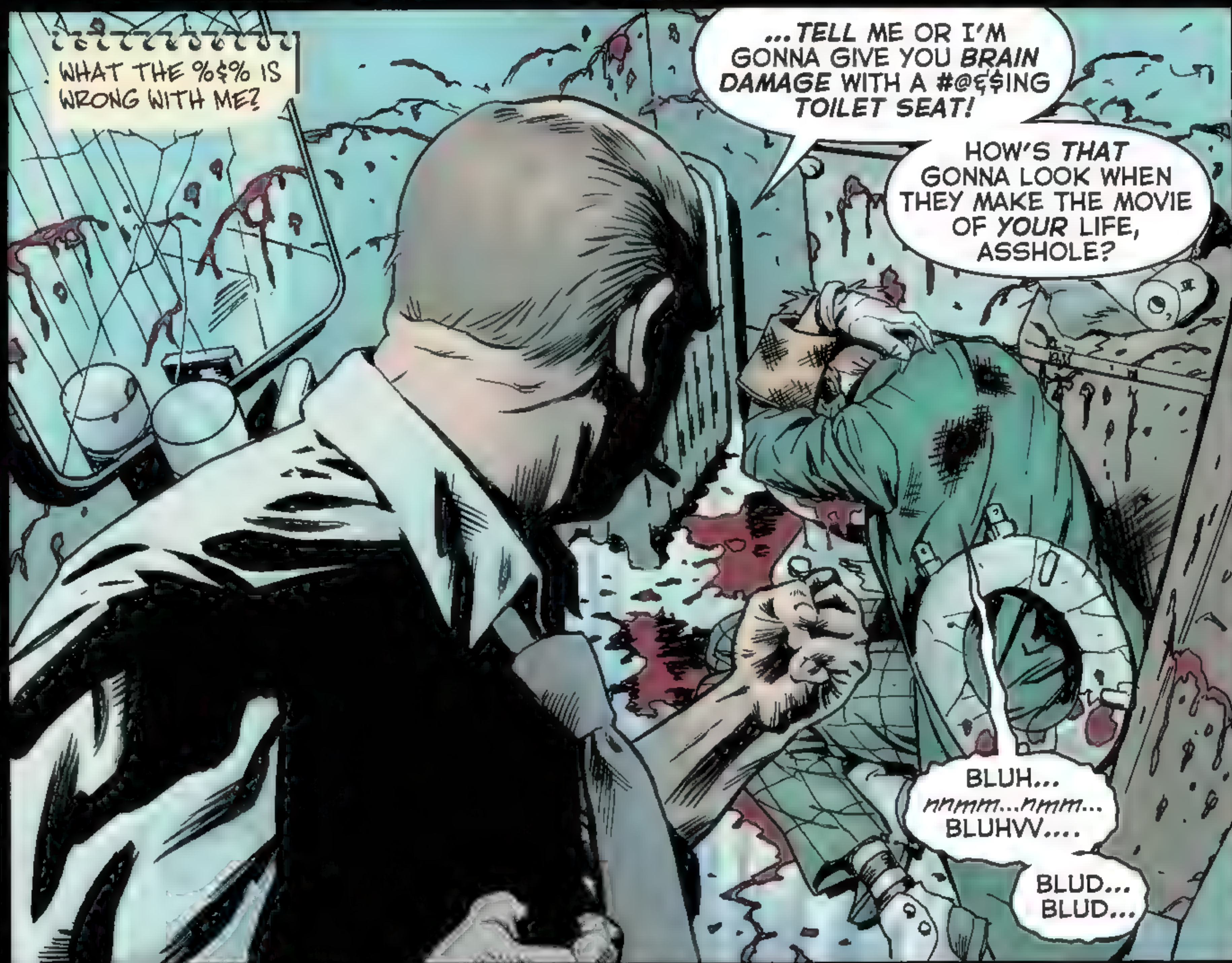
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH ME?



AuuGHyh

WHERE?

WHERE THE
@%\$\$ YOU
THINK YOU'RE
GOIN'?



WHAT THE %\$\$ IS
WRONG WITH ME?

...TELL ME OR I'M
GONNA GIVE YOU BRAIN
DAMAGE WITH A #@\$\$ING
TOILET SEAT!

HOW'S THAT
GONNA LOOK WHEN
THEY MAKE THE MOVIE
OF YOUR LIFE,
ASSHOLE?

BLUH...
MMMM...MMMM...
BLUHV... ..

BLUD...
BLUD...

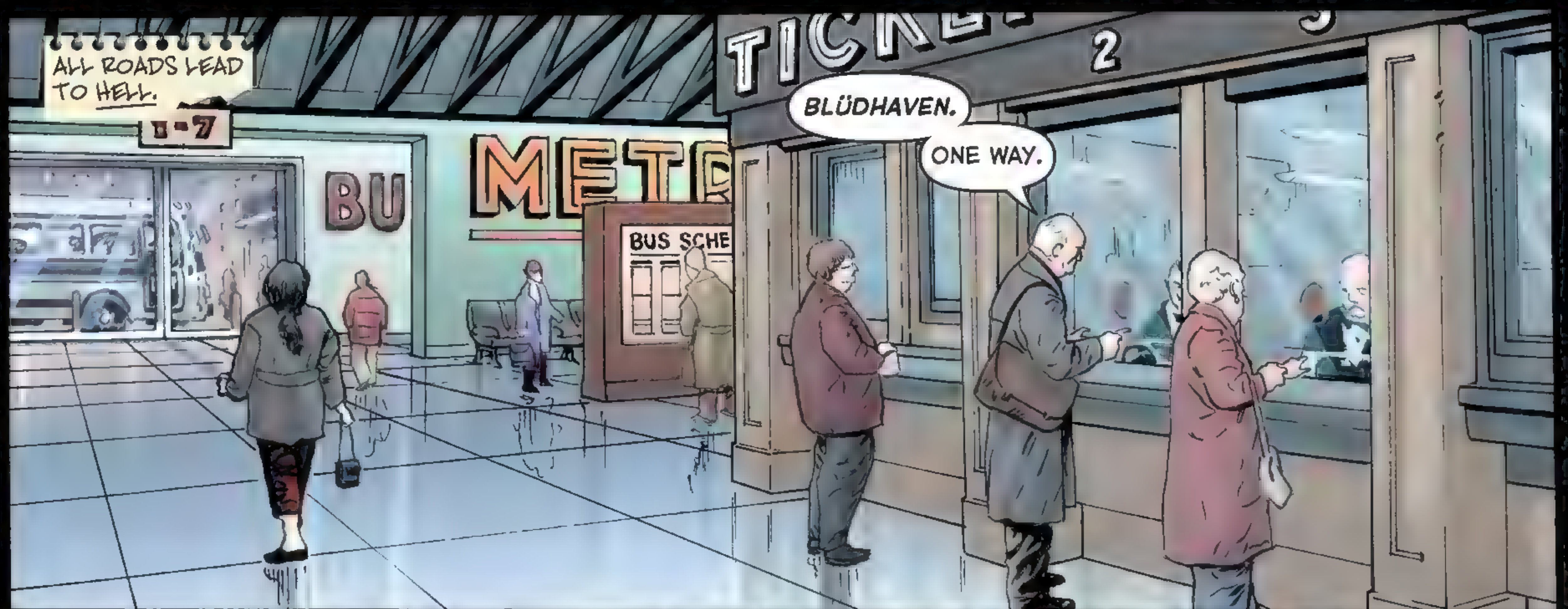


|||||
DON'T FEEL TOO
GOOD.

|||||
DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD.

|||||
I SHOULDA KNOWN.

|||||
SHOULDA KNOWN BETTER.



ALL ROADS LEAD
TO HELL.

U-7

BU

METRO

BUS SCHE

TICKETS 2

BLÜDHAVEN.

ONE WAY.

J'ONN
J'ONZZ WAS MY
FRIEND.

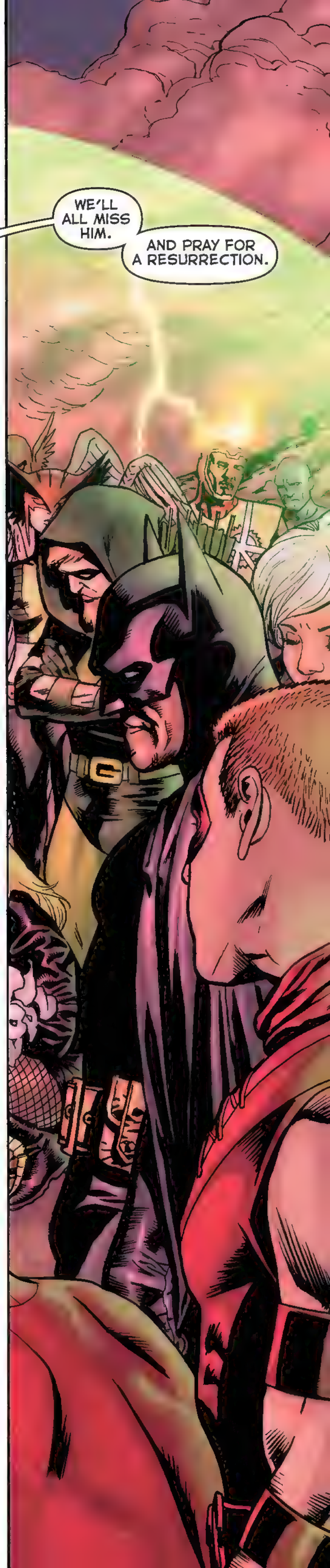
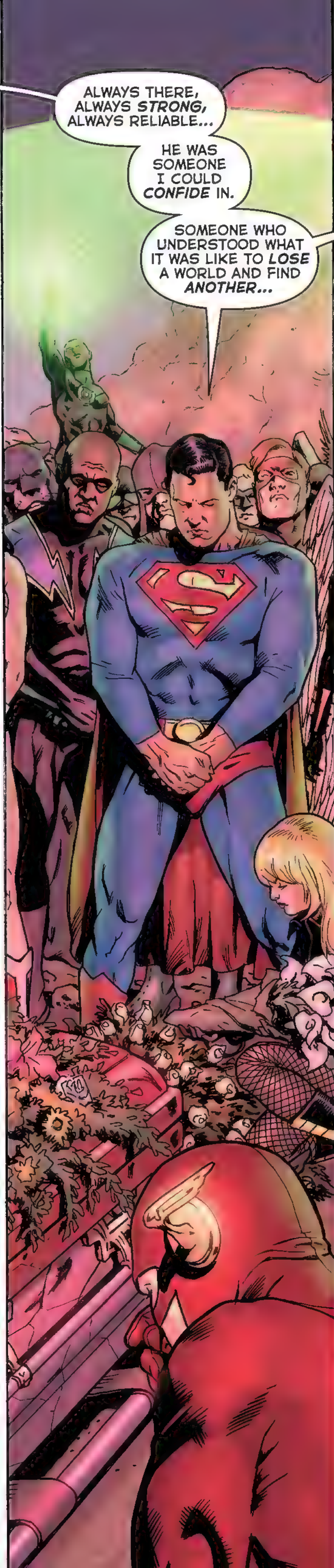
ALWAYS THERE,
ALWAYS STRONG,
ALWAYS RELIABLE...

HE WAS
SOMEONE
I COULD
CONFIDE IN.

SOMEONE WHO
UNDERSTOOD WHAT
IT WAS LIKE TO LOSE
A WORLD AND FIND
ANOTHER...

WE'LL
ALL MISS
HIM.

AND PRAY FOR
A RESURRECTION.





WELL,
GENTLEMEN?

CONVINCED?



THE MARTIAN
WAS AN EASY
TARGET.

HURT SUPERMAN,
PERHAPS I'LL TAKE YOU
MORE SERIOUSLY.



UNTIL
THEN...

SAY WHAT
YOU LIKE,
LUTHOR!

LIBRA
DELIVERED FOR
THE HUMAN
FLAME.

AND I'M NEXT
ON THE CHRISTMAS
LIST, SO NO SCREWING
THIS UP FOR ME!



SO LET ME GET THIS
STRAIGHT...

YOU'RE SAYING
IF I HURT SUPERMAN,
YOU'LL JOIN ME?

WELL
NOW...



...HE OFFERS THEM
THEIR **HEART'S DESIRE** IN
RETURN FOR THEIR **LOYALTY** AND
OPENS THE SOCIETY'S DOORS
TO DANGEROUS **Z-LIST**
WANNABES!

EVEN THAT
REPTILE **SIVANA** AGREES
WITH ME THAT WE HAVE TO
MAKE AN ALLIANCE
AGAINST **LIBRA'S**
AMBITIONS.

CAN WE
COUNT ON YOU,
SAVAGE?



I HAVE WALKED
THE EARTH SINCE
THE MORNING
OF TIME.

I'VE SEEN SO MANY LITTLE MEN
SQUANDERING LITTLE LIVES ON THE
PETTY **POWER STRUGGLES** THAT BRING
MEANING TO OTHERWISE FUTILE,
MOMENTARY EXISTENCES.

IF HE
PROMISES ME
AN END TO
BOREDOM, I'LL
TAKE IT.



IGNORE
'EM.

ZILLIONAIRE
SUITS LIKE **LUTHOR**
EXPECT THE WORLD
ON A SILVER PLATE,
BOSS.

EVEN **LUTHOR** WILL
COME AROUND WHEN
HE SEES WHAT I DO
NEXT...

BUT I'M
NOT THE BOSS,
MIKE.

YOU'LL KNOW
ALL ABOUT IT
WHEN THE BOSS
SHOWS UP.



ALL I KNOW
IS YOU'RE THE
GUY WHO PUT
THE **HUMAN FLAME**
BACK ON THE MAP
AFTER ALL THOSE
YEARS I LOST IN
PRISON.

I OWE YOU
BIG TIME.

Mmm.
YES.

WHY DON'T
WE GO BACK
INSIDE AND
TALK ABOUT...
WELL...



ABOUT
WHAT YOU
OWE ME.

J'ONN J'ONZZ
IS DEAD.

ORION
IS DEAD!

SAY
NO MORE,
DIANA.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE
NO LONGER HAS ACCESS
TO THE INSTANTANEOUS
MIND-TO-MIND CONTACT
J'ONN'S TELEPATHIC
SKILLS PROVIDED...

THE GLOBAL
SUPERHUMAN
COMMUNITY IS
ON PRIORITY
ALERT.

BATMAN.

ACCORDING
TO MY SOURCES, THE
SECRET SOCIETY VOWED
REVENGE ON J'ONN
AFTER HE IMPERSONATED
BLOCKBUSTER
RECENTLY.

THIS WAS
AN EXECUTION,
ORGANIZED-
CRIME STYLE.

ORION IS
SOMETHING ELSE,
BUT I'VE ASKED THE FLASH
THERE TO INVESTIGATE
SOME POTENTIAL LEADS
THAT COULD LINK THE
KILLINGS.

SOMEONE'S
COMING...

GREEN
LANTERN.

GUYS,
MY SUPERIOR
OFFICER...

MORE MEMBERS OF THE
LOCAL CRIMEFIGHTING
CLUB, JORDAN?

HOW MUCH DO
THESE EXTRACURRICULAR
DISTRACTIONS
COMPROMISE YOUR JOB
AS SECTOR PROTECTOR,
I WONDER.

WHEN DID
YOU LAST SPEND
SIGNIFICANT TIME ON
HELIOPOLIS, M'BRAI,
ATHMOORA, OR ANY OF
A THOUSAND INHABITED
WORLDS IN YOUR
SECTOR?

EARTH HAS A HABIT OF
ATTRACTING TROUBLE, ALPHA
LANTERN KRAKEN.

AS YOU
CAN SEE.

THE VICTIM
HERE IS OF
CELESTIAL
ORIGIN.

THEN IT'S IMPORTANT TO
WORK QUICKLY BEFORE HIS
BODY SUBLIMATES BACK
TO THE SOURCE.

UNFORTUNATELY
THIS BACKWATER LACKS
THE TECHNOLOGY TO
ACCURATELY DETERMINE
THE CAUSE OF A
SO-CALLED GOD'S
DEATH...

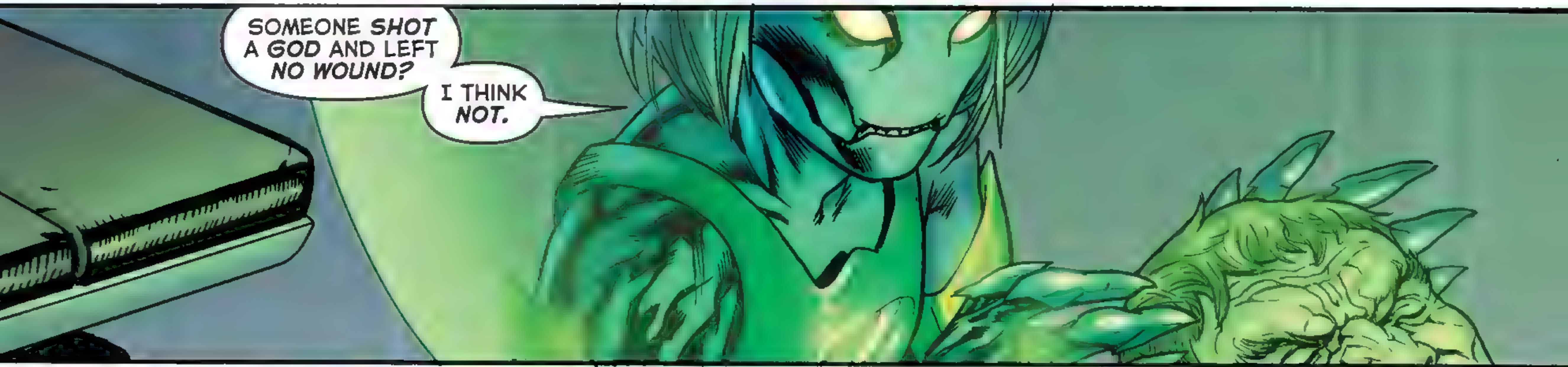


HE WAS SHOT.

THE *INTERNAL* TRAUMA'S CONSISTENT WITH THE BLAST PATTERN OF A BULLET DETONATING *INSIDE* ORION'S HEART.

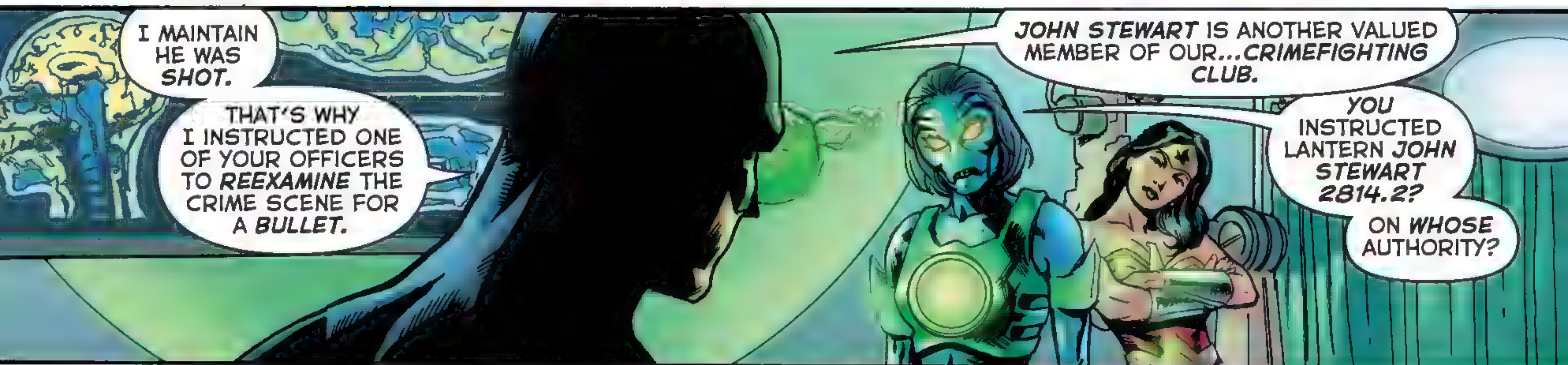
WHAT *KIND* OF BULLET REMAINS TO BE SEEN, SINCE IT LEFT NO OTHER *TRACE* OF ITS PASSAGE.

X-RAY HIM AGAIN, LANTERN KRAKEN, YOU'LL SEE.



SOMEONE SHOT A GOD AND LEFT NO WOUND?

I THINK NOT.



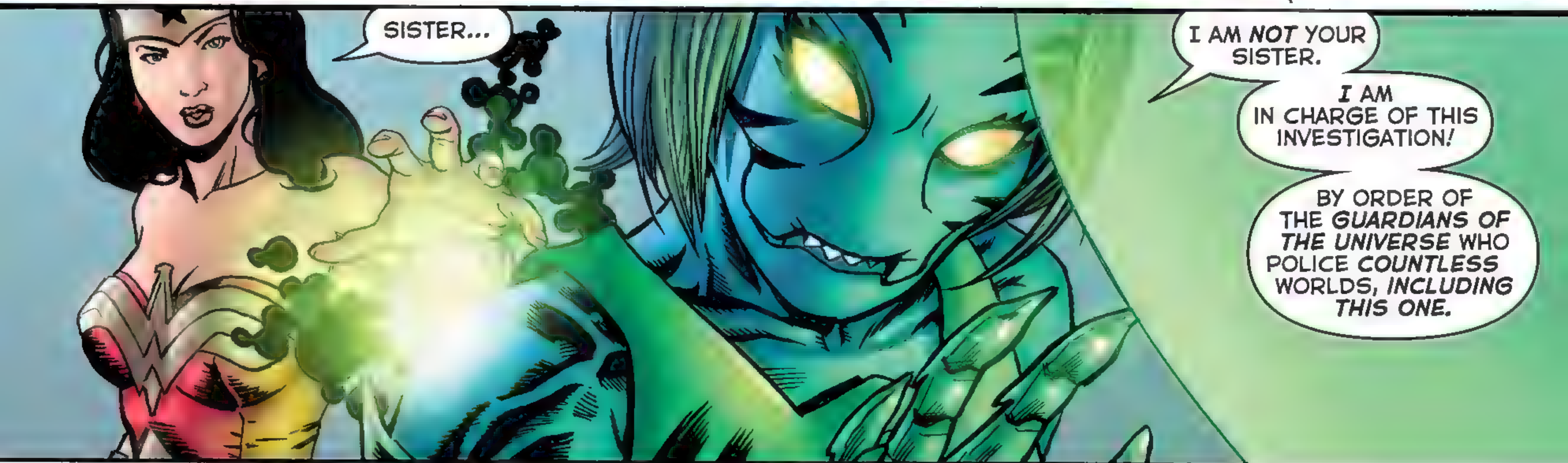
I MAINTAIN HE WAS SHOT.

THAT'S WHY I INSTRUCTED ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS TO REEXAMINE THE CRIME SCENE FOR A BULLET.

JOHN STEWART IS ANOTHER VALUED MEMBER OF OUR...CRIMEFIGHTING CLUB.

YOU INSTRUCTED LANTERN JOHN STEWART 2814.2?

ON WHOSE AUTHORITY?



SISTER...

I AM NOT YOUR SISTER.

I AM IN CHARGE OF THIS INVESTIGATION!

BY ORDER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE WHO POLICE COUNTLESS WORLDS, INCLUDING THIS ONE.



I DON'T REMEMBER VOTING THEM IN.

BATMAN. GUYS.

ALPHA LANTERN KRAKEN IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTIGATORS IN THE CORPS.

I'M SURE WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER...

THIS IS A JOB FOR TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.

AND I BELIEVE YOUR DUTY SHIFT IS OVER, JORDAN.

WE'LL CALL YOU IN THE MORNING.



...OPTO,
HEY.

WHATEVER
I THOUGHT I HEARD,
THERE'S NOTHING
HERE NOW.

CORDON'S
SECURE.



THERE'S THAT
DAMN SOUND
AGAIN!

FOUND
ANYTHING
YET?

Mm.
MAYBE.

THE RING
DETECTED A TRACE
ENERGY SIGNATURE
IT COULDN'T
IDENTIFY.

WHATEVER IT IS,
IT'S BEEN *BURIED* IN THE
CONCRETE FOUNDATION
FOR FIFTY YEARS
OR MORE.



WHICH MAKES IT AN
UNLIKELY CANDIDATE
FOR A *MURDER WEAPON*,
BUT I DECIDED TO DIG
IT OUT, JUST TO
MAKE SURE...

CAUTION:
UNIDENTIFIED
THEOTOXIC TRACE
MATERIAL.

TELL ME
WHEN I GET
BACK.



ALL
RIGHT.

WHAT DO
WE HAVE
HERE?

CAUTION:
UNIDENTIFIED
THEOTOXIC
TRACE
MATERIAL.

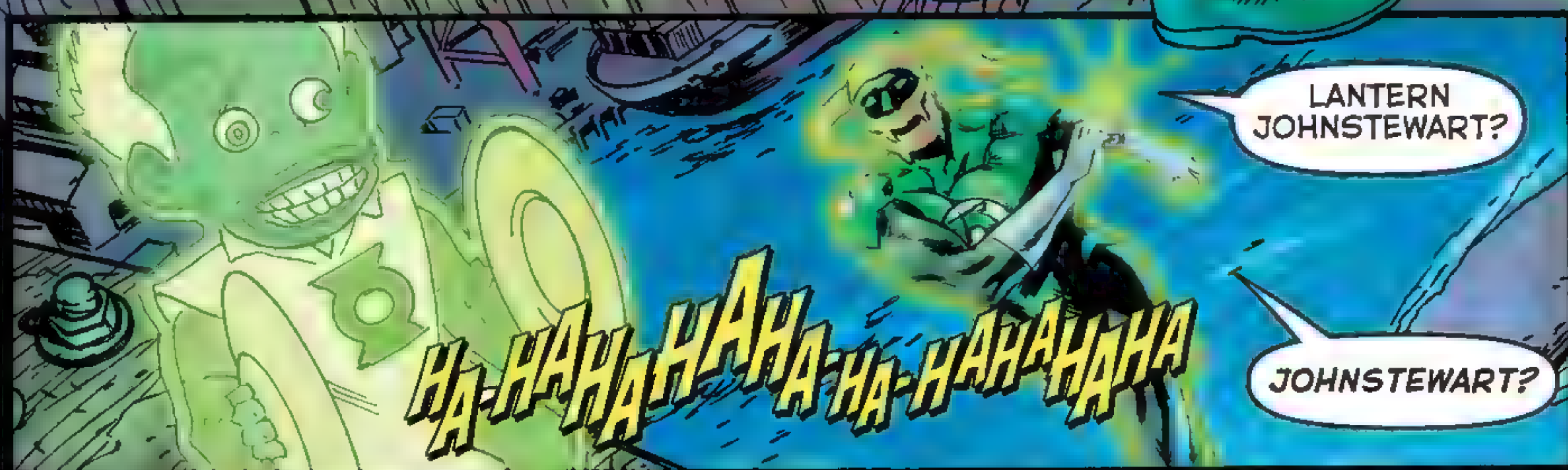
GUARDIAN
ARCHIVES
IDENTIFICATION:

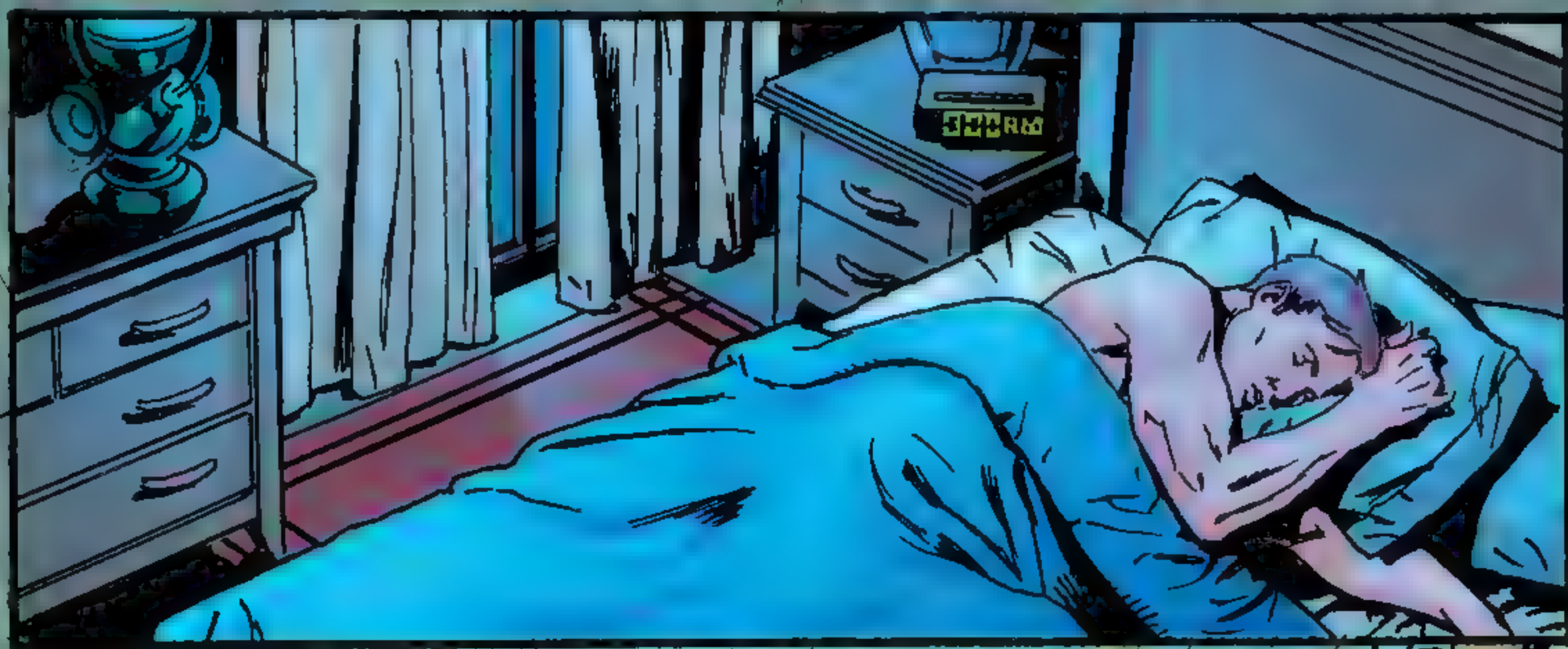
RADION...
EMERGENCY...

EMERGENCY
THEOTOXIKZ
SSQZZWARK

RING?

WHY
HAVE YOU
STOPPED?...



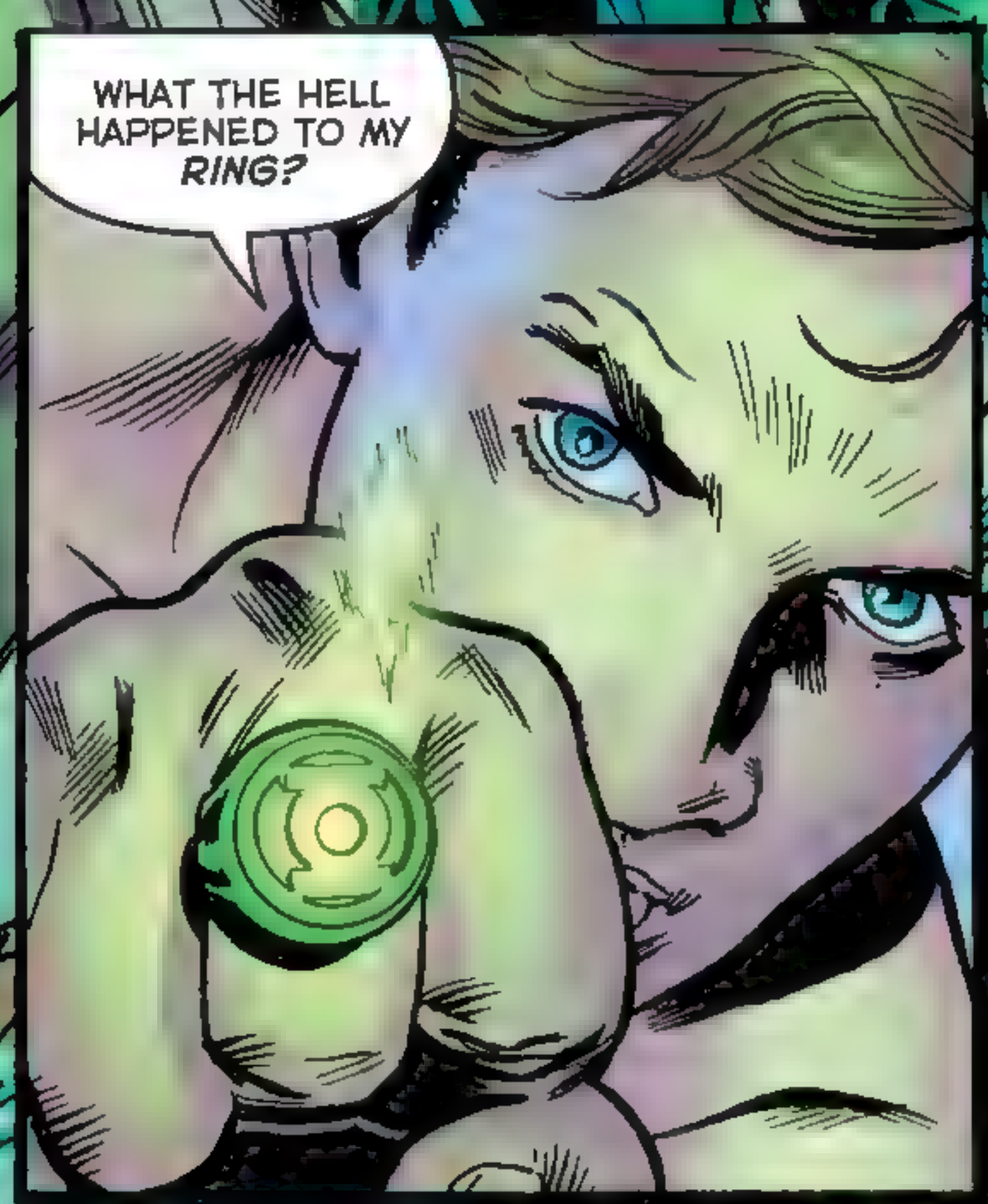


GREEN LANTERN
HAL JORDAN
2814.1!

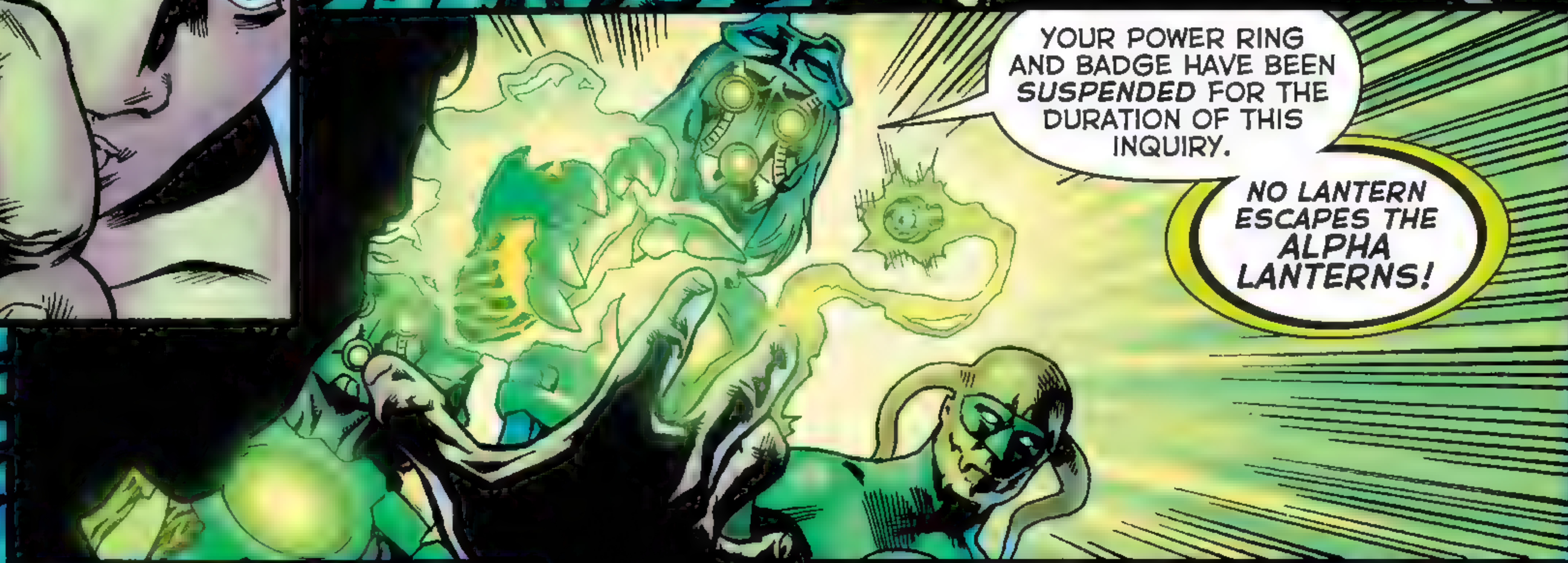
I'M PLACING YOU
UNDER ARREST FOR THE
MURDER OF A NEW GOD
AND THE ATTEMPTED
MURDER OF YOUR
PARTNER!



WHUH?



WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED TO MY
RING?



YOUR POWER RING
AND BADGE HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED FOR THE
DURATION OF THIS
INQUIRY.

NO LANTERN
ESCAPES THE
ALPHA
LANTERNS!



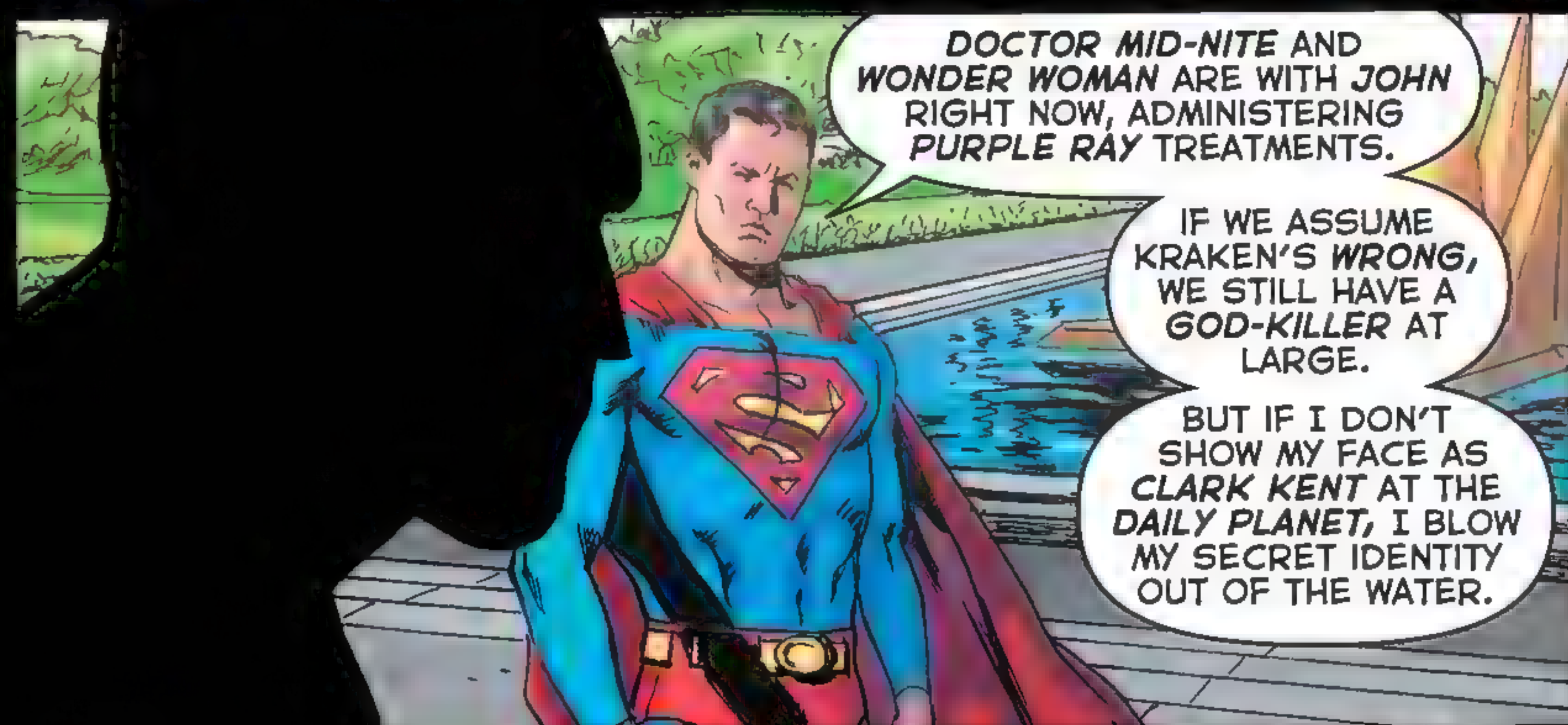
...LOOK, I WAS NEVER JORDAN'S BIGGEST SUPPORTER, BUT THIS JUST DOESN'T SCAN.

DON'T TELL ME YOU TRUST KRAKEN.

IF SHE'S WRONG, AND I'M SURE SHE IS, IT SHOULDN'T TAKE US LONG TO PROVE HAL'S INNOCENCE.

I ONLY NEED AN HOUR OR TWO.

I KNOW YOU CAN HOLD THE FORT UNTIL I GET BACK.



DOCTOR MID-NITE AND WONDER WOMAN ARE WITH JOHN RIGHT NOW, ADMINISTERING PURPLE RAY TREATMENTS.

IF WE ASSUME KRAKEN'S WRONG, WE STILL HAVE A GOD-KILLER AT LARGE.

BUT IF I DON'T SHOW MY FACE AS CLARK KENT AT THE DAILY PLANET, I BLOW MY SECRET IDENTITY OUT OF THE WATER.



Hh.
SUPERMAN, SUPERMAN...



ALPHA LANTERN KRAKEN.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT JORDAN.

...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ORION?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU.

THE BODY OF A GOD IS MOSTLY ENERGY--IT SUBLIMES WITHOUT A TRACE.

AND AS FOR JORDAN...



THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME.

HE WAS ONCE POSSESSED BY PARALLAX, THE FEAR-THING.

MANY THOUSANDS DIED AS A RESULT.

I REMEMBER.

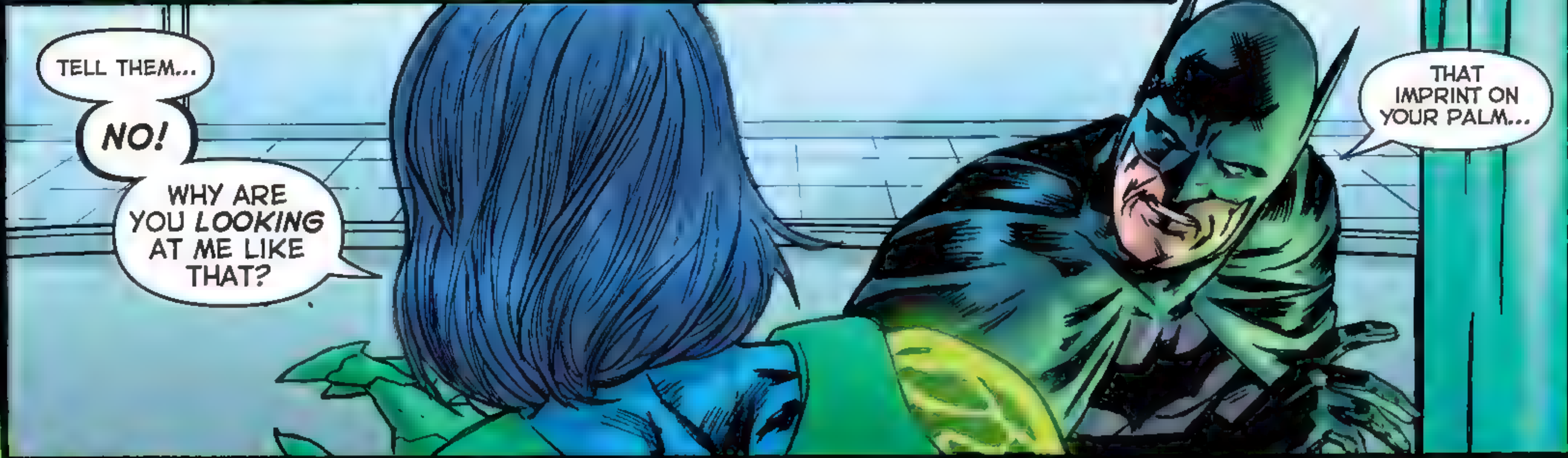
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



HELP ME!

SHE'S
EATING MY MIND
ALIVE...

TELL THEM OUR
WEAPONS DON'T
WORK...



TELL THEM...

NO!

WHY ARE
YOU LOOKING
AT ME LIKE
THAT?

THAT
IMPRINT ON
YOUR PALM...



DON'T YOU
DARE TOUCH
ME!

BLACK
ALERT!

SEAL
THE HALL OF
JUSTICE!

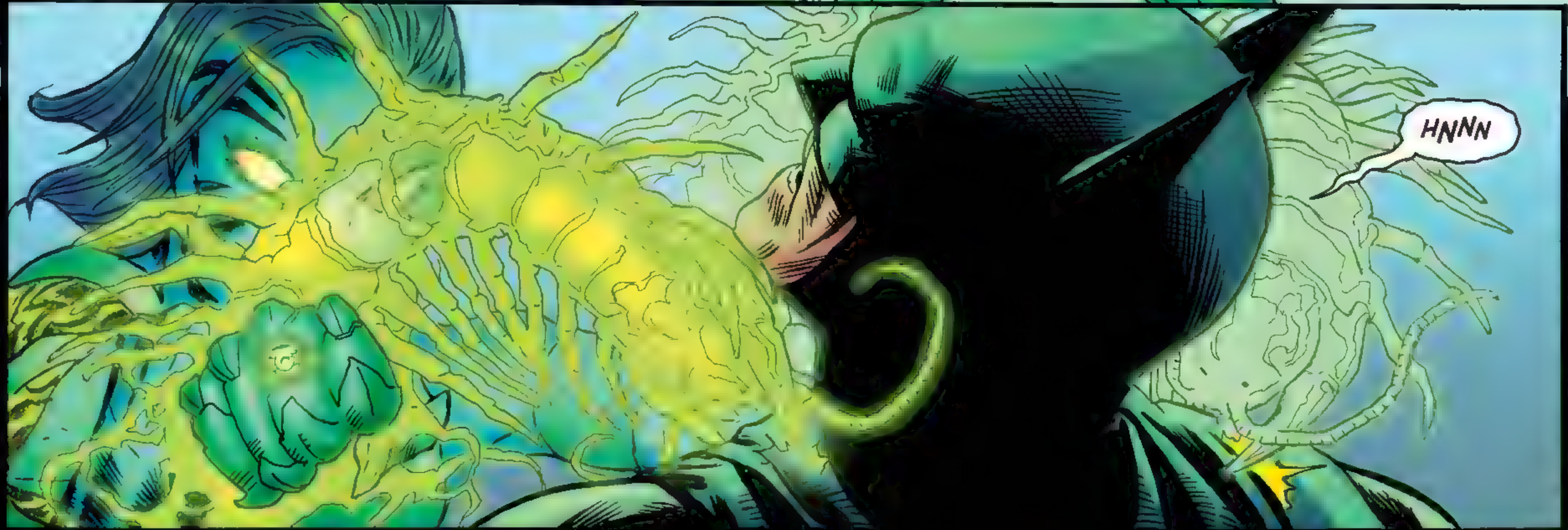
AND GET
ME BACKUP
NOW!



JOHN HAS
ONE HELL OF A
RIGHT HOOK,
DOESN'T HE?

STEWART IS
CRITICAL. WONDER WOMAN
CANNOT LEAVE HIM...BUT
DOCTOR MID-NITE IS
ALREADY RESPONDING TO
YOUR ALARM.

HE WILL
ARRIVE IN EXACTLY
THIRTY-FIVE SECONDS,
BUT EVEN HE, TO HIS
ETERNAL, PUNISHING
REGRET...



HNNN



...EVEN HE
WON'T REACH
YOU IN TIME.

DO YOU
HEAR THAT
SOUND LIKE
THUNDER?

ARE YOU
AFRAID AT
LAST?



DID YOU
THINK THE GODS
WOULD TREAD LIGHTLY
WHEN THEY CAME
AMONG YOU?

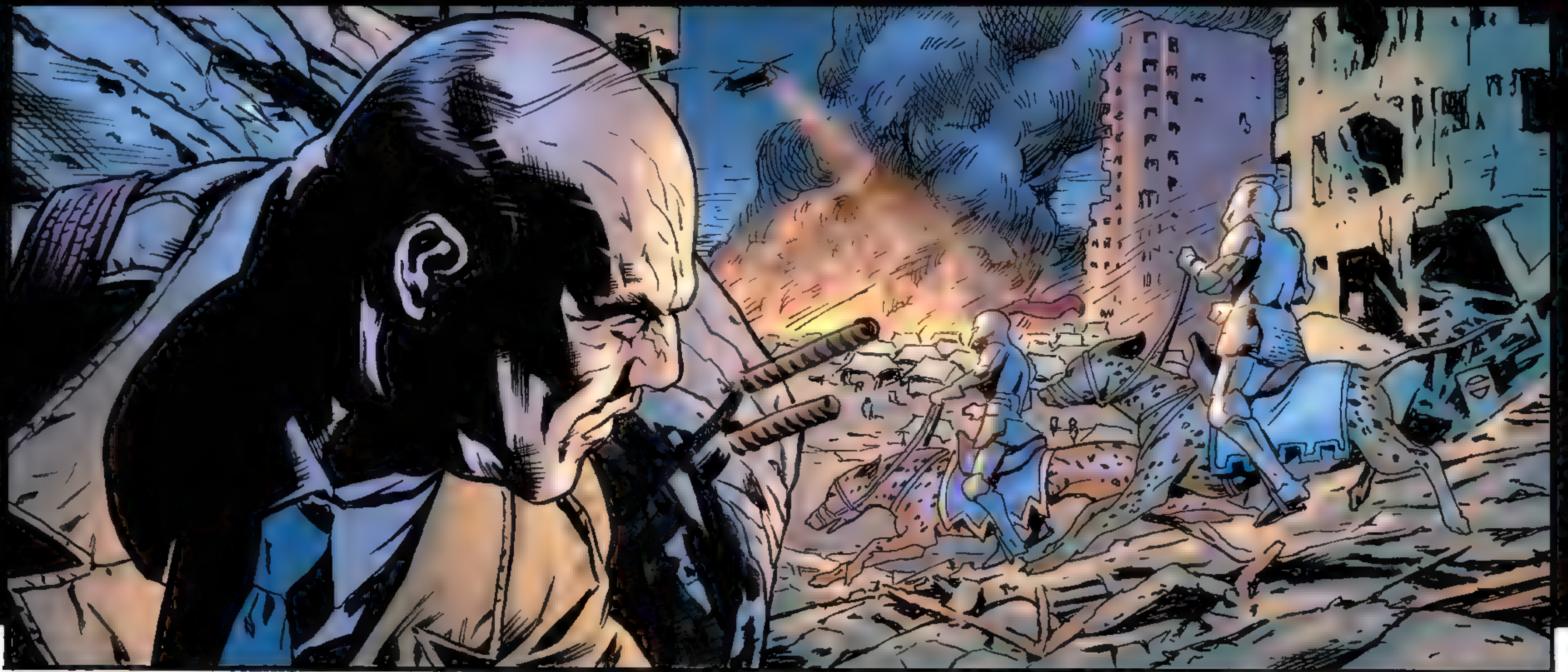
INTO THE
"BOOM TUBE"
WITH YOU.

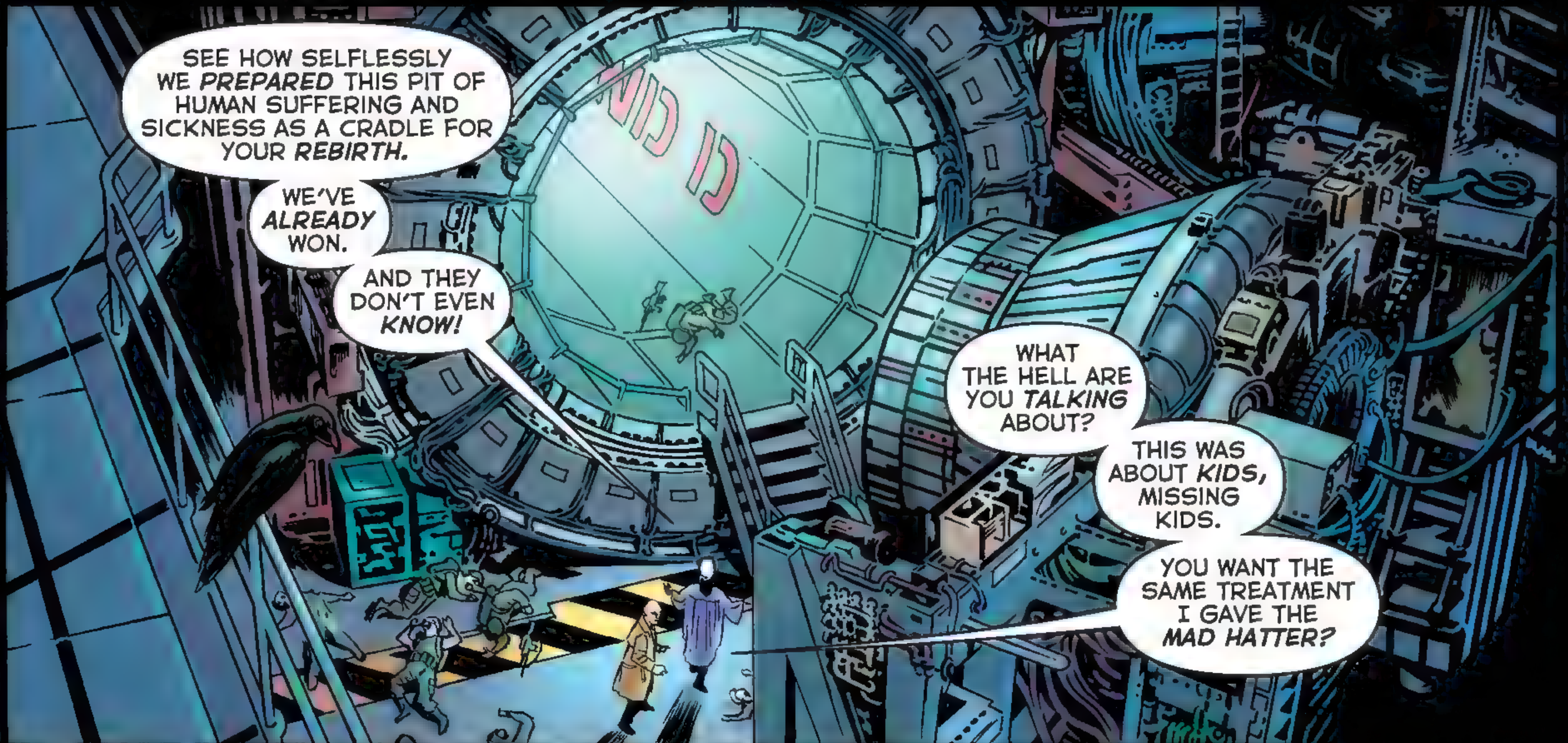
A NEW
PLAYTHING FOR
GRANNY.



THE LIFE
YOU KNEW IS
OVER.

MINE
NOW.





SEE HOW SELFLESSLY
WE PREPARED THIS PIT OF
HUMAN SUFFERING AND
SICKNESS AS A CRADLE FOR
YOUR REBIRTH.

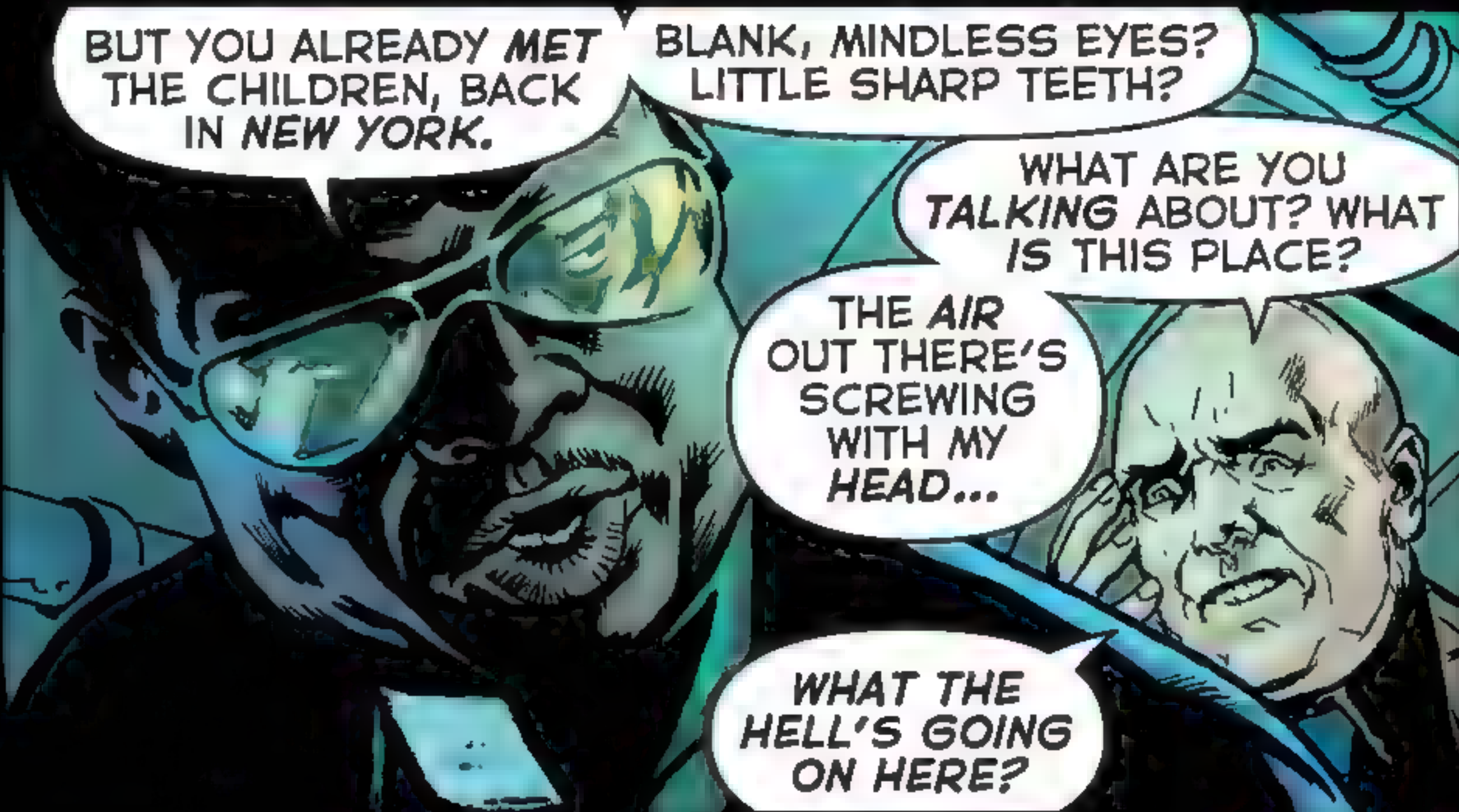
WE'VE
ALREADY
WON.

AND THEY
DON'T EVEN
KNOW!

WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

THIS WAS
ABOUT KIDS,
MISSING
KIDS.

YOU WANT THE
SAME TREATMENT
I GAVE THE
MAD HATTER?



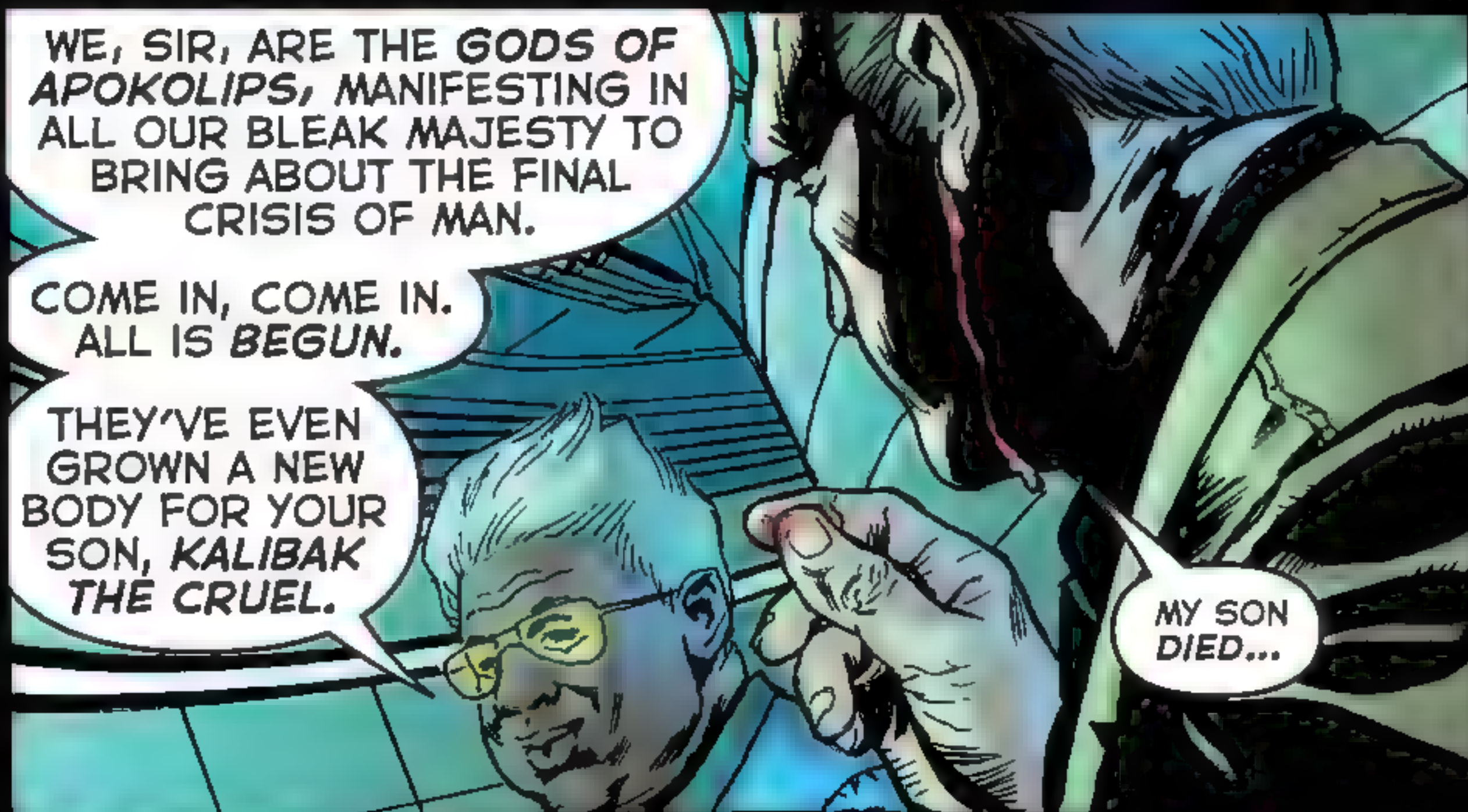
BUT YOU ALREADY MET
THE CHILDREN, BACK
IN NEW YORK.

BLANK, MINDLESS EYES?
LITTLE SHARP TEETH?

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT? WHAT
IS THIS PLACE?

THE AIR
OUT THERE'S
SCREWING
WITH MY
HEAD...

WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING
ON HERE?



WE, SIR, ARE THE GODS OF
APOKOLIPS, MANIFESTING IN
ALL OUR BLEAK MAJESTY TO
BRING ABOUT THE FINAL
CRISIS OF MAN.

COME IN, COME IN.
ALL IS BEGUN.

THEY'VE EVEN
GROWN A NEW
BODY FOR YOUR
SON, KALIBAK
THE CRUEL.

MY SON
DIED...



MISTER!

MISTER,
THEY'RE MAKING
SLAVES!

METRON
GAVE YOU A
WEAPON!

OH GOD...
HOLY GOD...

...YOU
CAN'T GET
AWAY WITH
THIS...

THESE ARE DESTINED TO BECOME
SUBHUMAN DEGENERATES,
LIVING, BREEDING JOYLESSY, AND
DYING IN AGONY TO SERVE THE
ETERNAL, ALL-CONSUMING
FIREPITS.

HALLELUJAH!



IT'S WRONG
TO PITY THE
WEAK.

MISTER SIMYAN
AND MISTER MOKKARI
WILL BACK ME UP
ON THAT.

WON'T YOU,
BOYS?

...NO...

HOW DID
I GET
HERE?

THIS AIN'T
RIGHT.



GREAT ONE!

REJOICE!

THE EVIL
FACTORY IS
OPEN FOR
BUSINESS!

WHERE THE NEW GODS FELL,
WHAT CHANCE HAVE EARTH'S
PRIMITIVE STRONGMEN
AGAINST ALL THE ARMIES
OF APOKOLIPS?

SEE, WE STARTED
ROUNDING THEM
UP ALREADY!

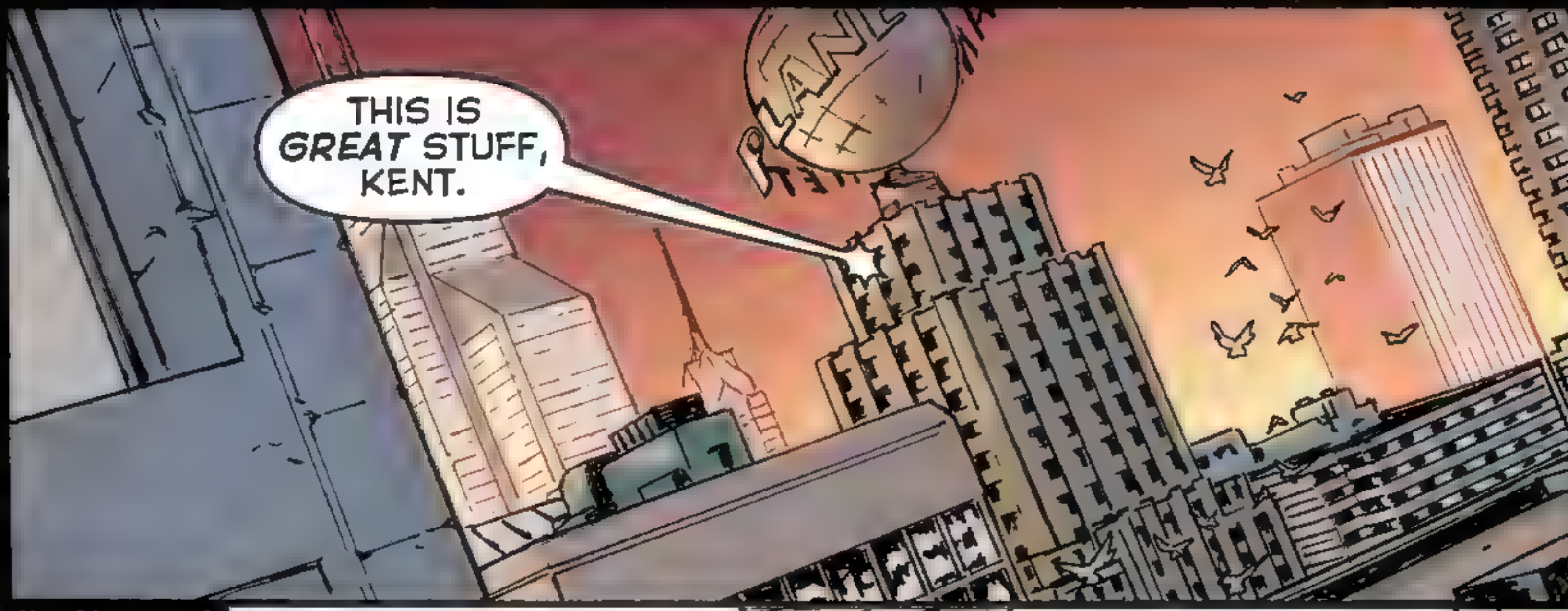
OH GOD,
OH JESUS.

THERE'S
SOMEONE IN
MY HEAD.

THEY'RE
COMING TO
GET US
ALL.

WARN
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE!

WARN
EVERYONE!



THIS IS GREAT STUFF, KENT.

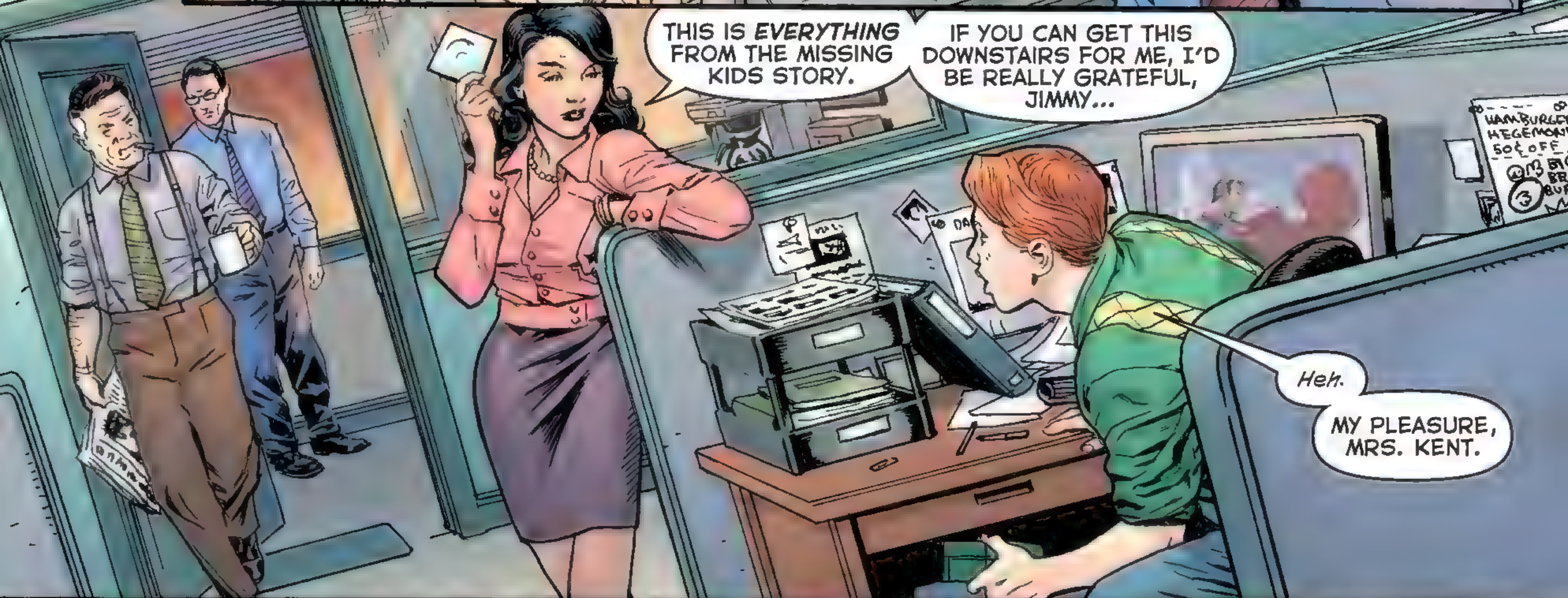
AND THE MANHUNTER FROM MARS OBIT ALMOST HAD ME WEEPING UNTIL I REMINDED MYSELF THAT AN EDITOR'S HEART IS AS COLD AS THE ICE IN A DRINK.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YOU'RE FEELING THE CHILL RIGHT THROUGH MY SHIRT?

Brrr.

LIKE SOMEONE WALKED OVER MY GRAVE, MR. WHITE.

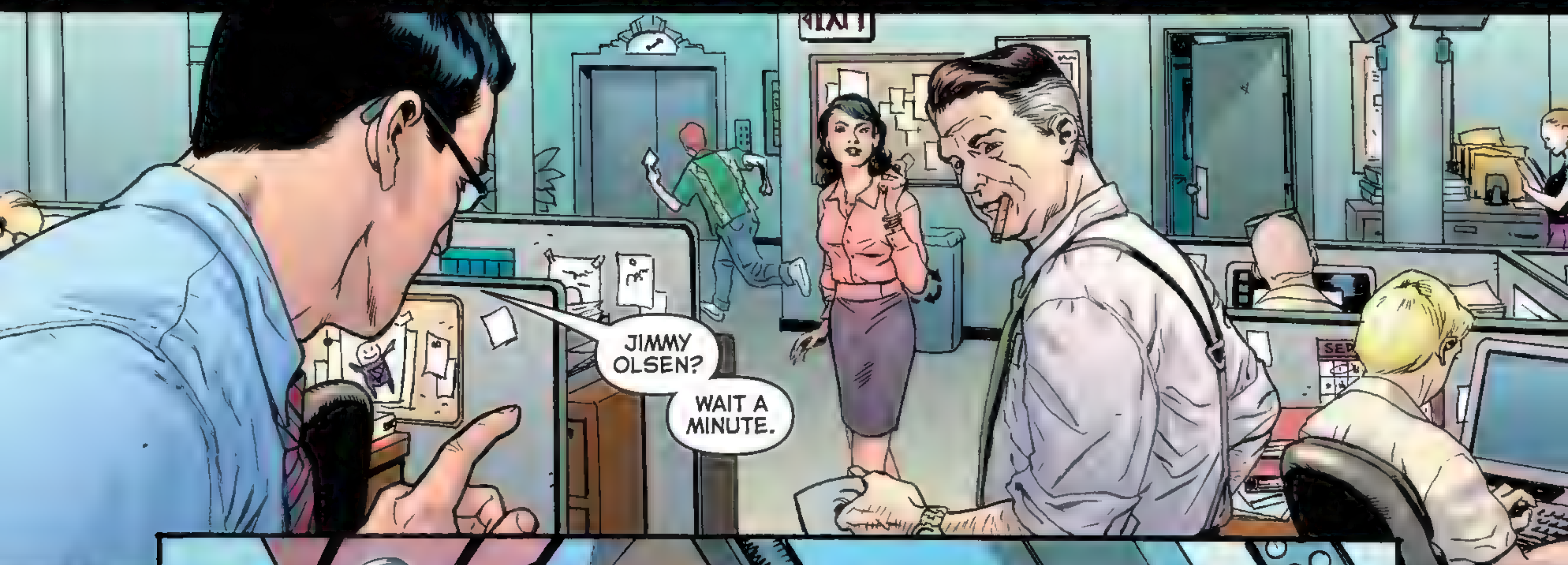


THIS IS EVERYTHING FROM THE MISSING KIDS STORY.

IF YOU CAN GET THIS DOWNSTAIRS FOR ME, I'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL, JIMMY...

Heh.

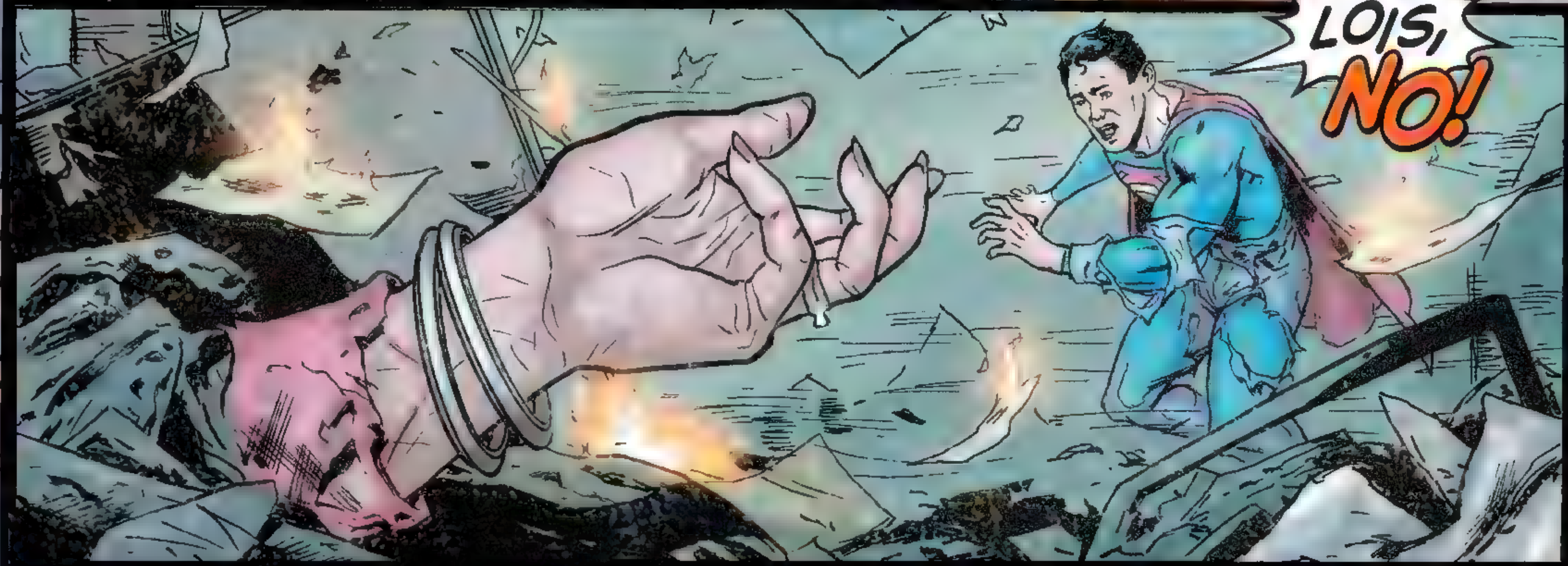
MY PLEASURE, MRS. KENT.

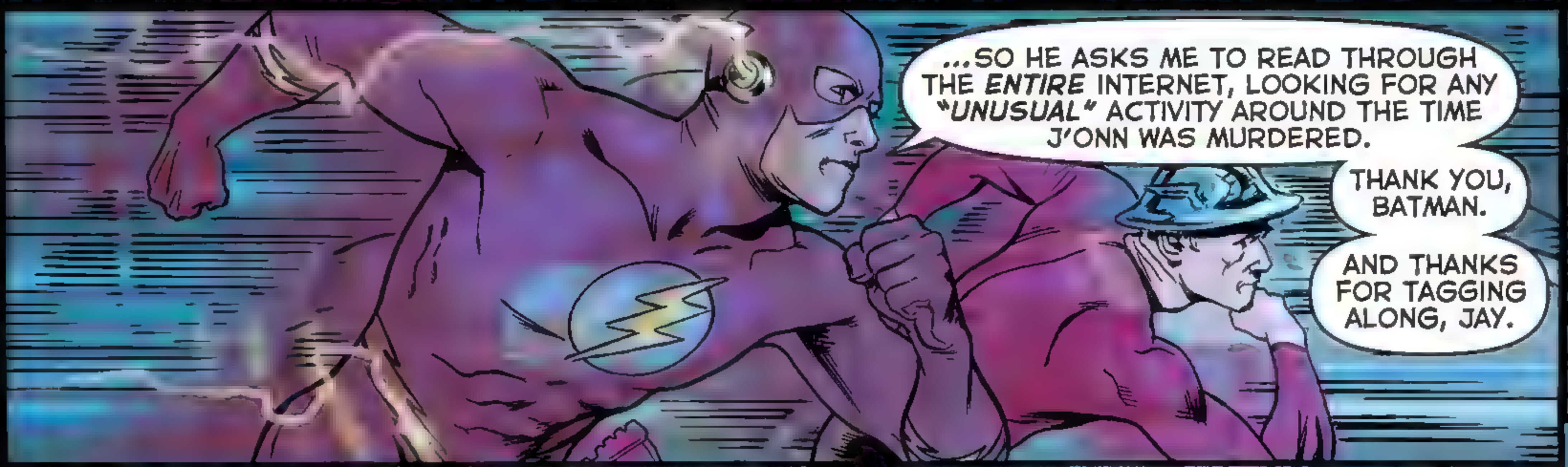


JIMMY OLSEN?

WAIT A MINUTE.



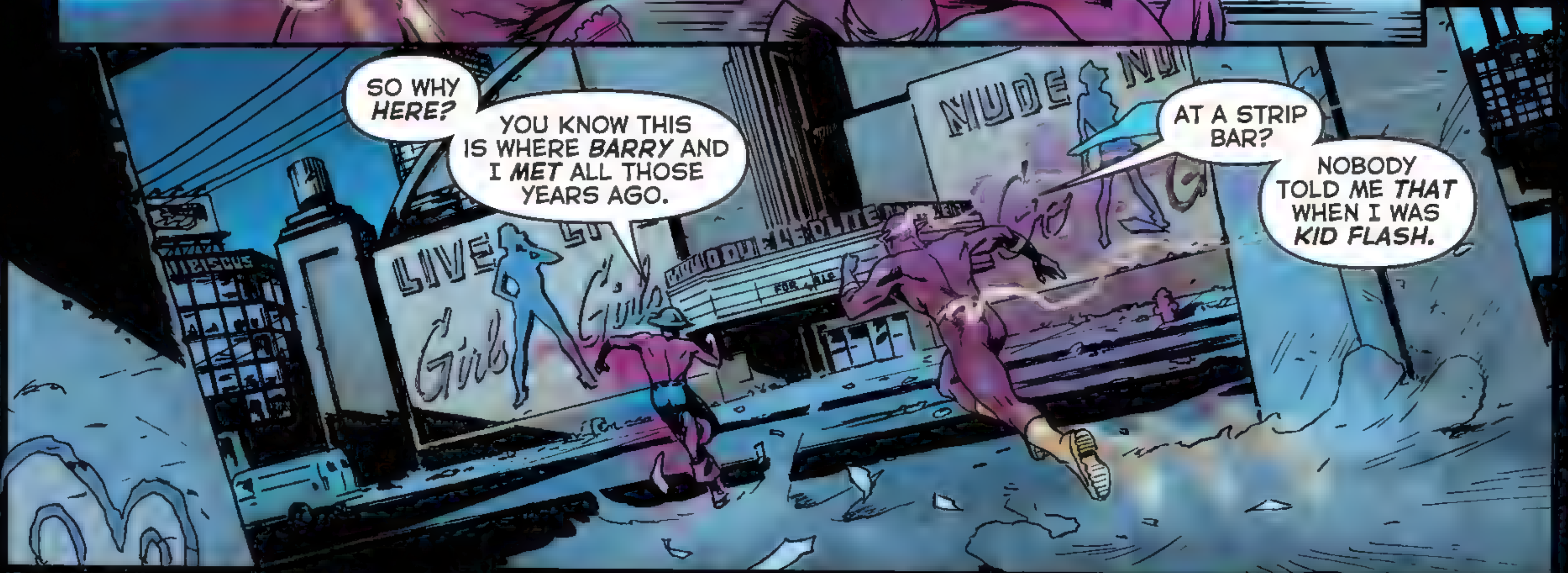




...SO HE ASKS ME TO READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE INTERNET, LOOKING FOR ANY "UNUSUAL" ACTIVITY AROUND THE TIME J'ONN WAS MURDERED.

THANK YOU, BATMAN.

AND THANKS FOR TAGGING ALONG, JAY.



SO WHY HERE?

YOU KNOW THIS IS WHERE BARRY AND I MET ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

AT A STRIP BAR?

NOBODY TOLD ME THAT WHEN I WAS KID FLASH.



...IT USED TO BE THE CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY CENTER.

POOR BRAVE BARRY--AT LEAST HE NEVER LIVED TO SEE IT ALL GO TO HELL.

AND NOW POOR J'ONN J'ONZZ...

TRACKING STATION RECORDED A SEISMIC PULSE AROUND THE TIME WE THINK J'ONN'S HEART EXPLODED.

THE EPICENTER WAS HERE.

I JUST TURNED THE WHOLE PLACE INSIDE OUT WHILE YOU WERE BLINKING.

TRACES OF MARTIAN BLOOD AND THIS PHONY "CRIME BIBLE" THING.



OH, YEAH... AND THAT.

PLASTIC AND WIRE PRETTY MUCH, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOBIUS CHAIR THE NEW GOD METRON USED TO TRAVEL AROUND IN...

OKAY, WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING.

PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, WALLY?

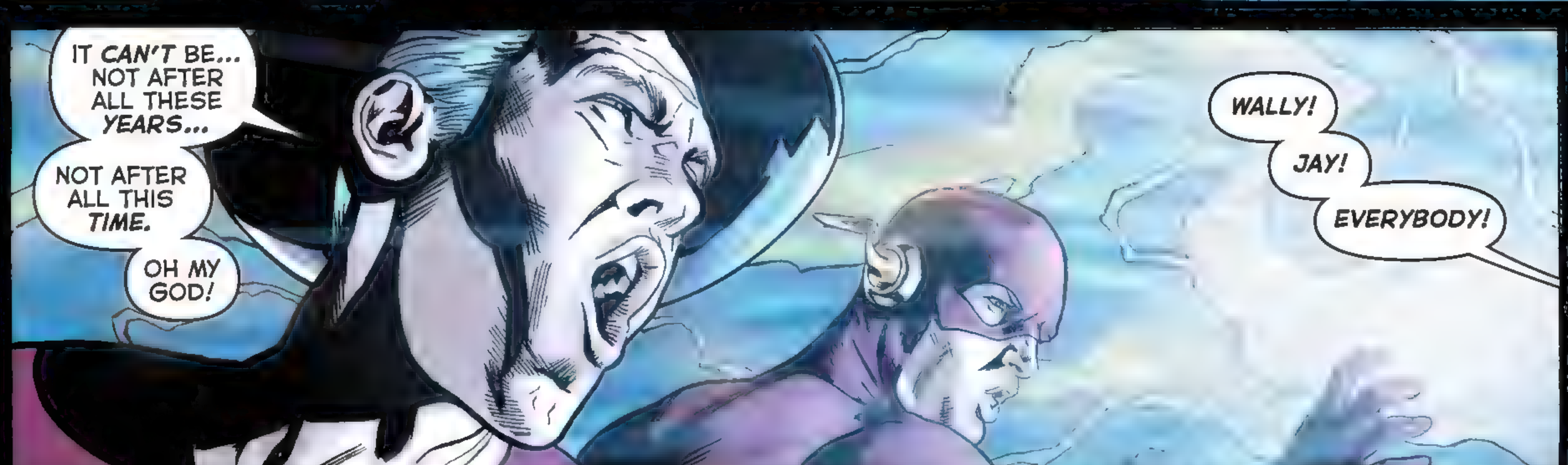


...WELL, BATMAN CAME UP WITH A PRETTY WILD IDEA WHICH I KIND OF RAN WITH SINCE WE'RE TALKING GOD WEAPONS, RIGHT?

IMAGINE A BULLET FIRED BACKWARDS THROUGH TIME.

DO I HAVE TO?

WALLY, I HATE ANYTHING TO DO WITH TIME IN ALL ITS FORMS, I...





RUN!!



KNOW EVIL

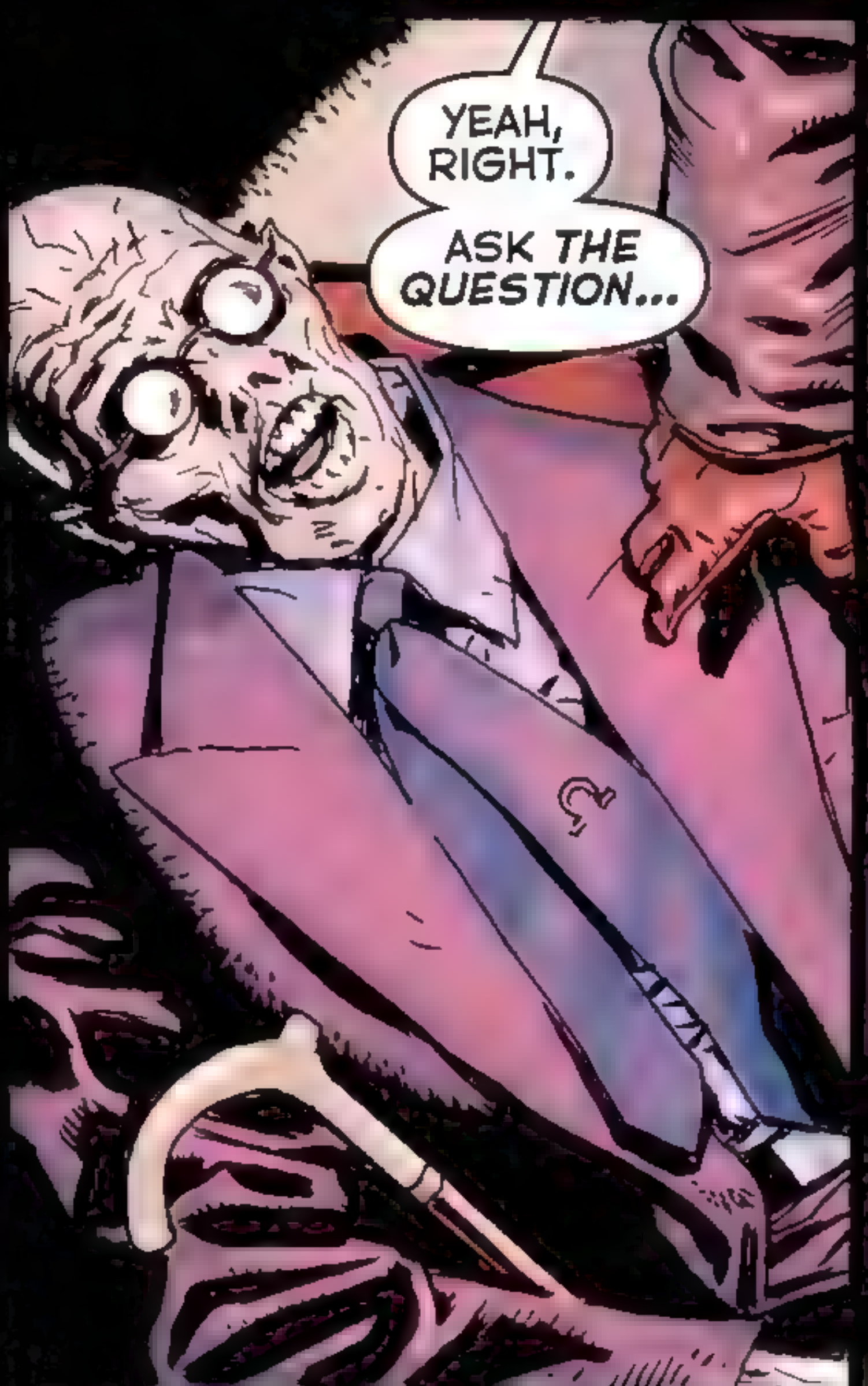
GRANT MORRISON
writer

J.G. JONES
Artist

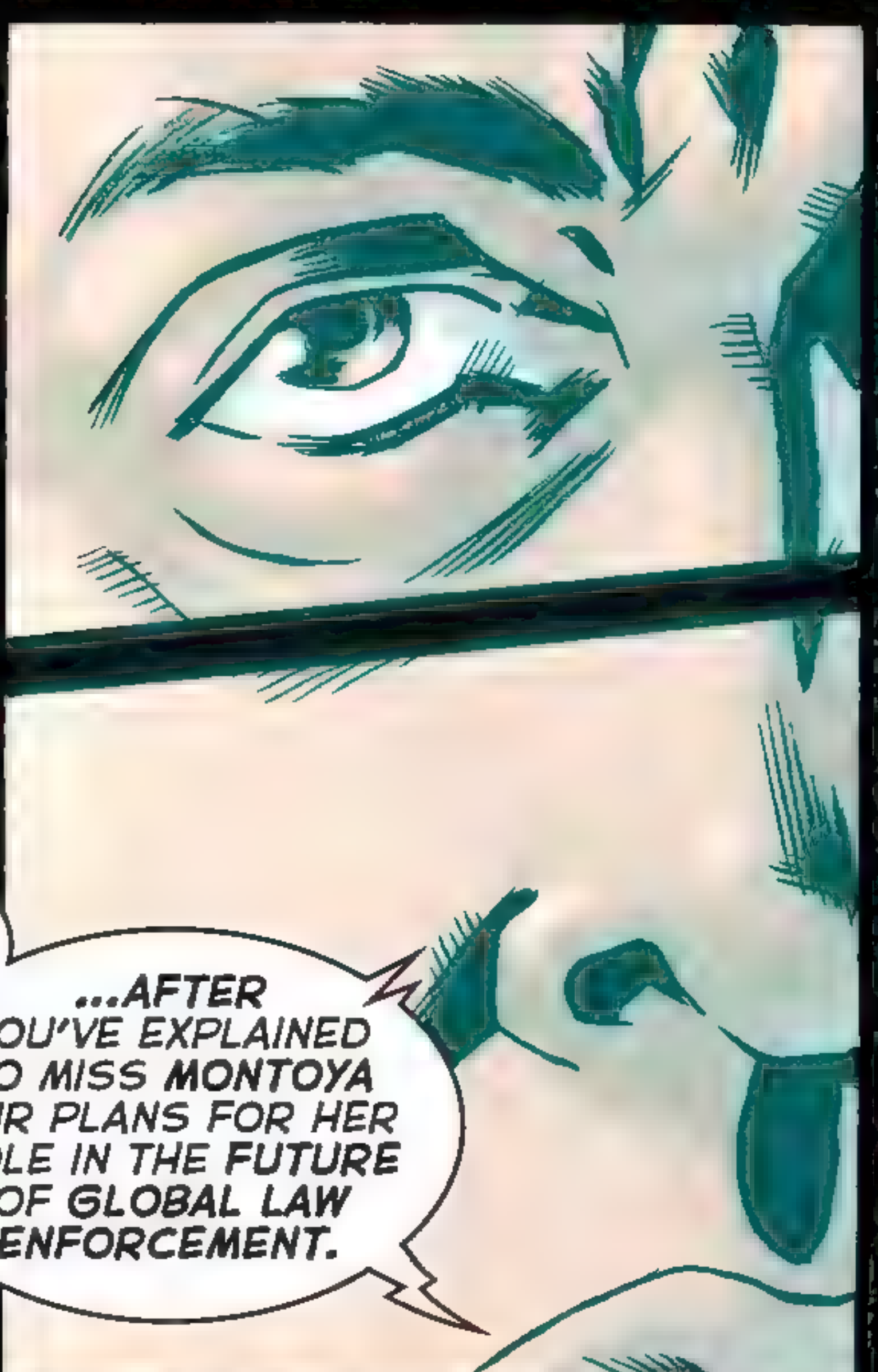
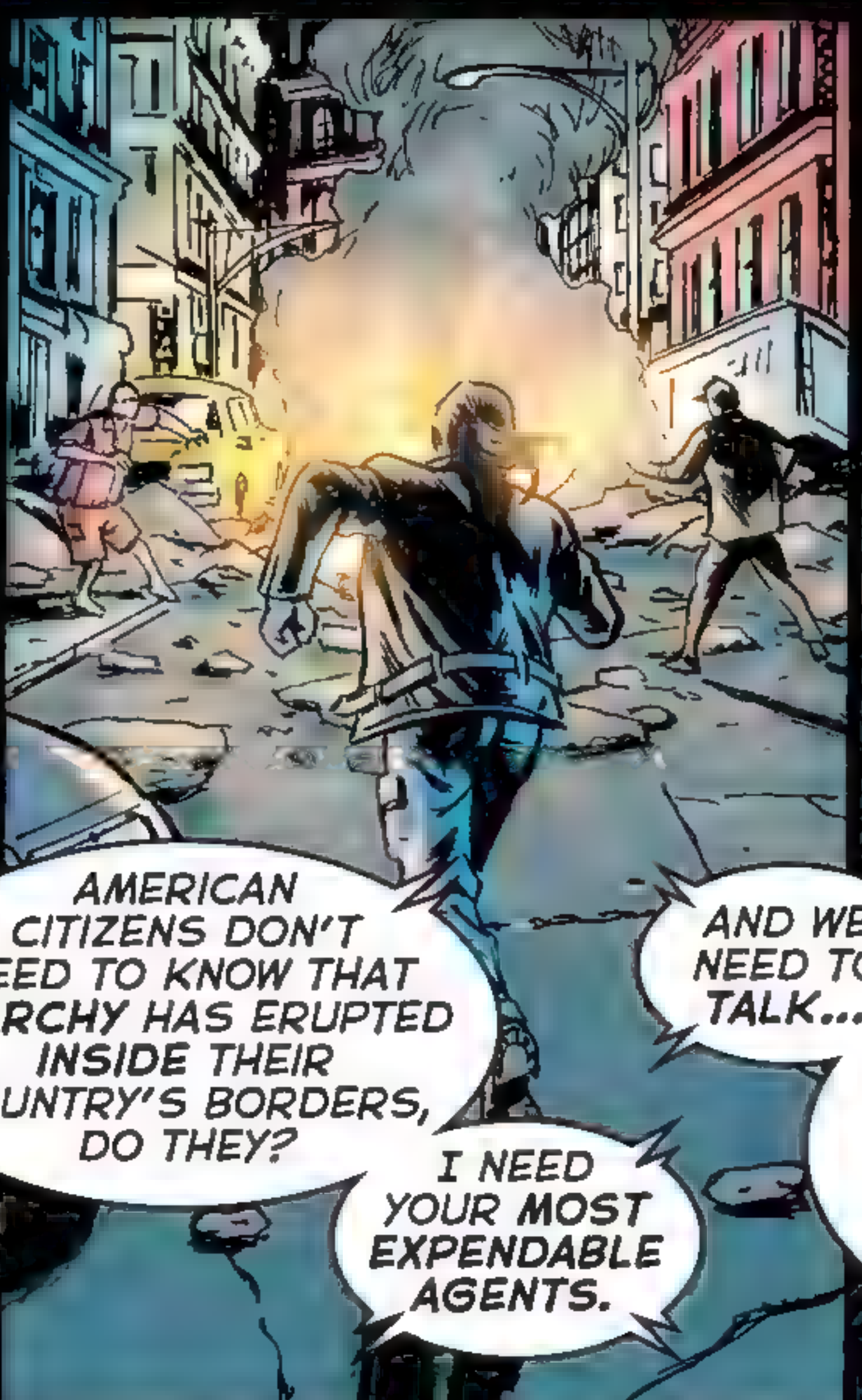
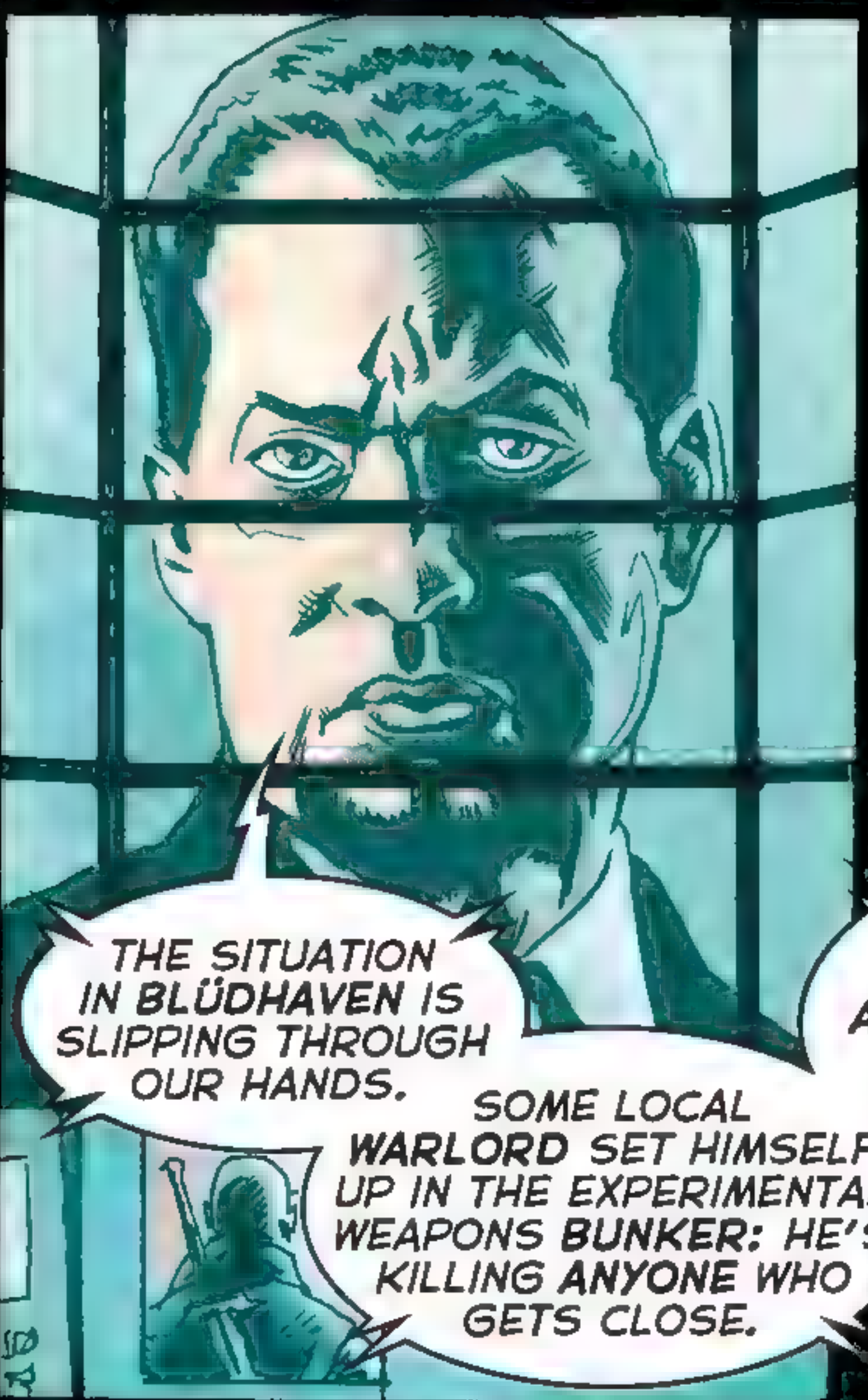
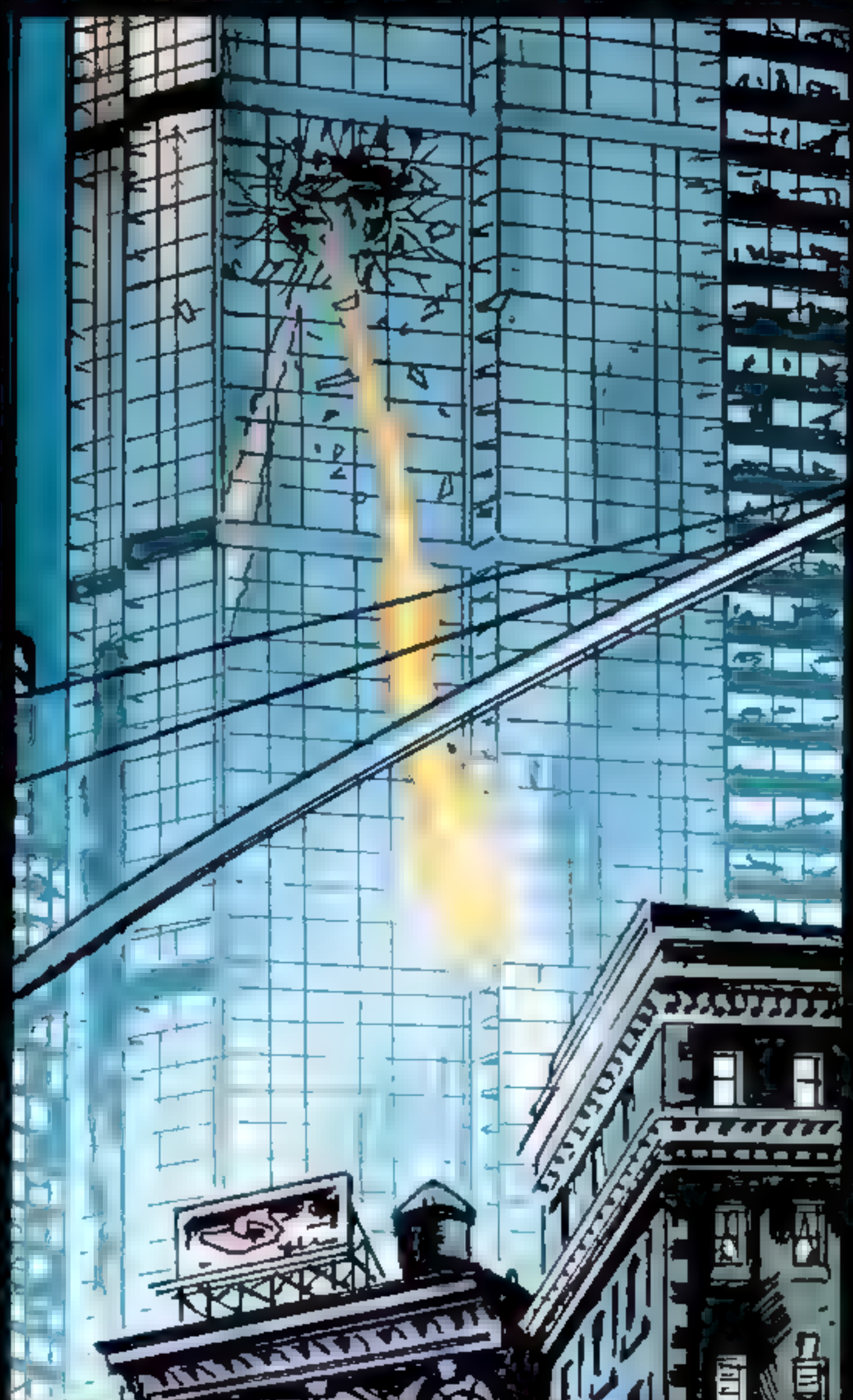
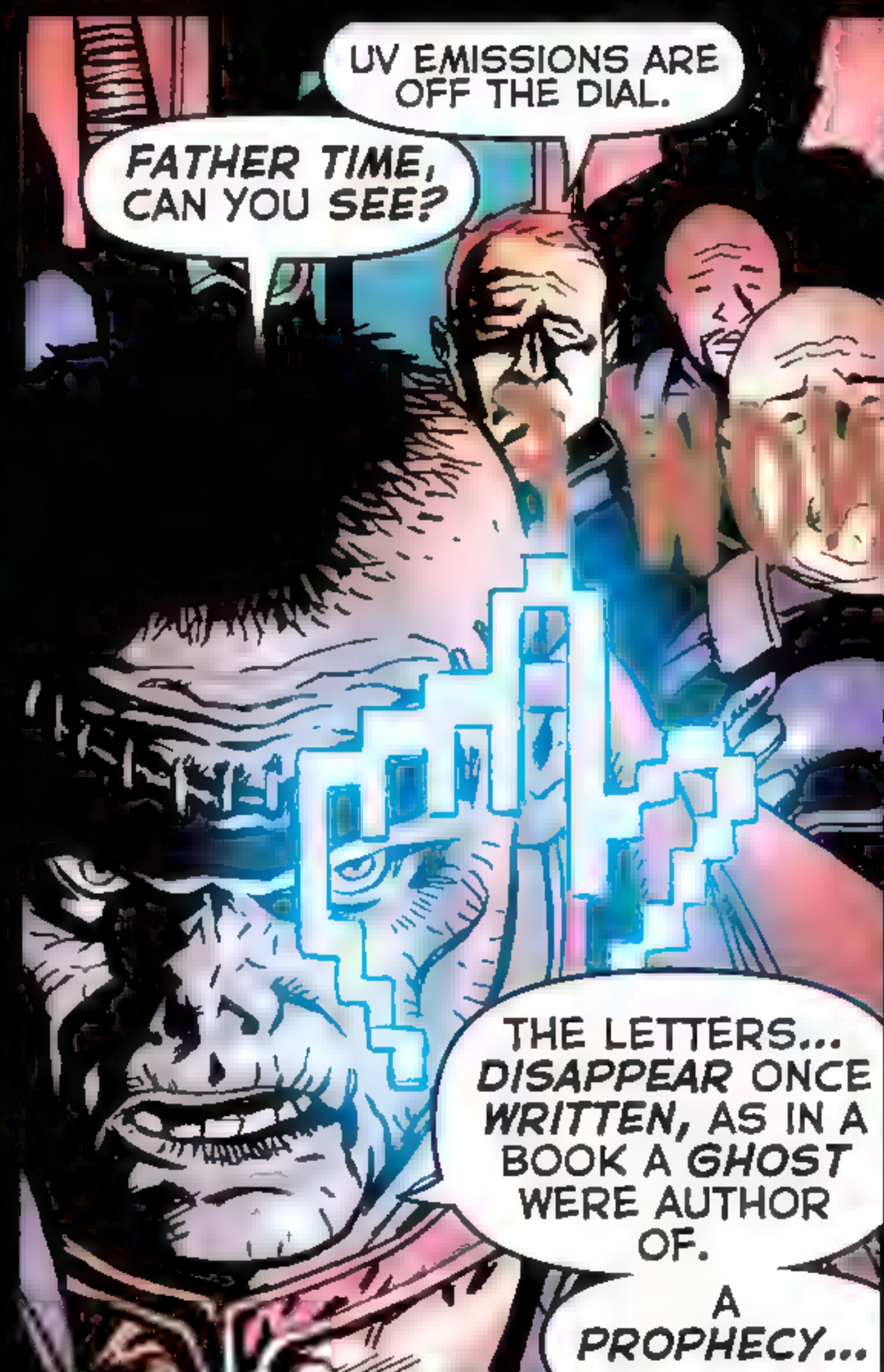
ALEX SINCLAIR
colorist

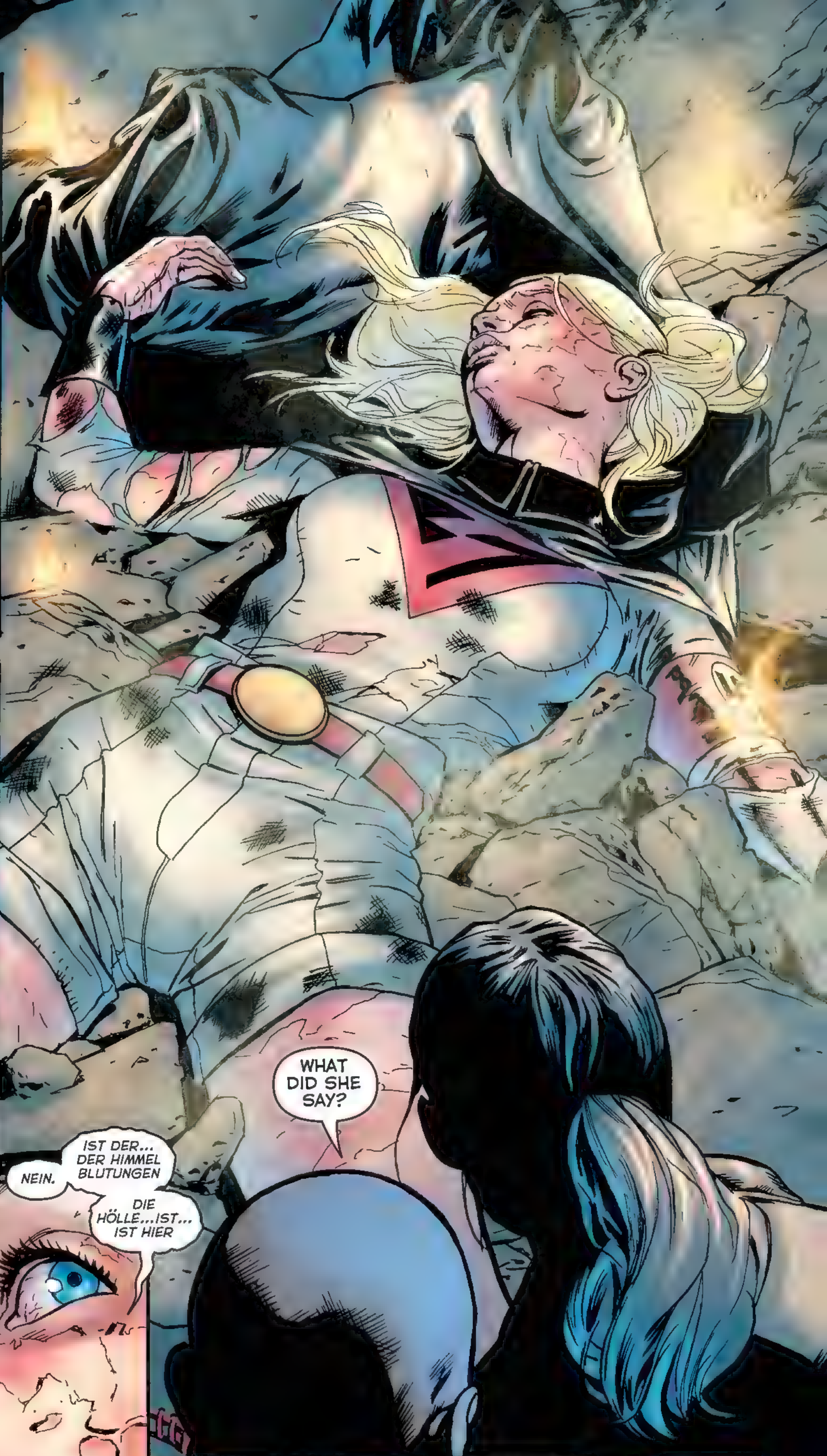
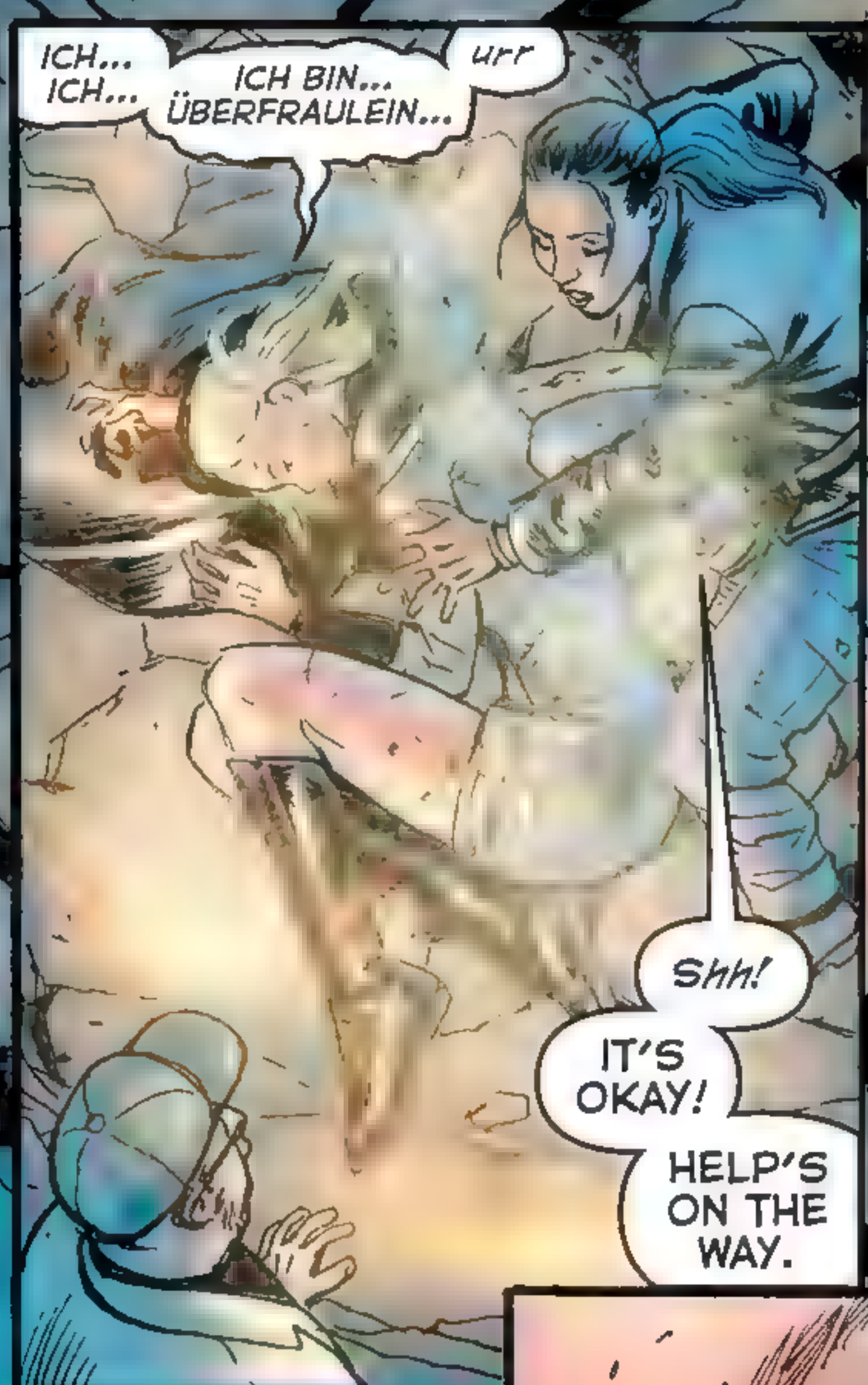
ROB LEIGH
letterer

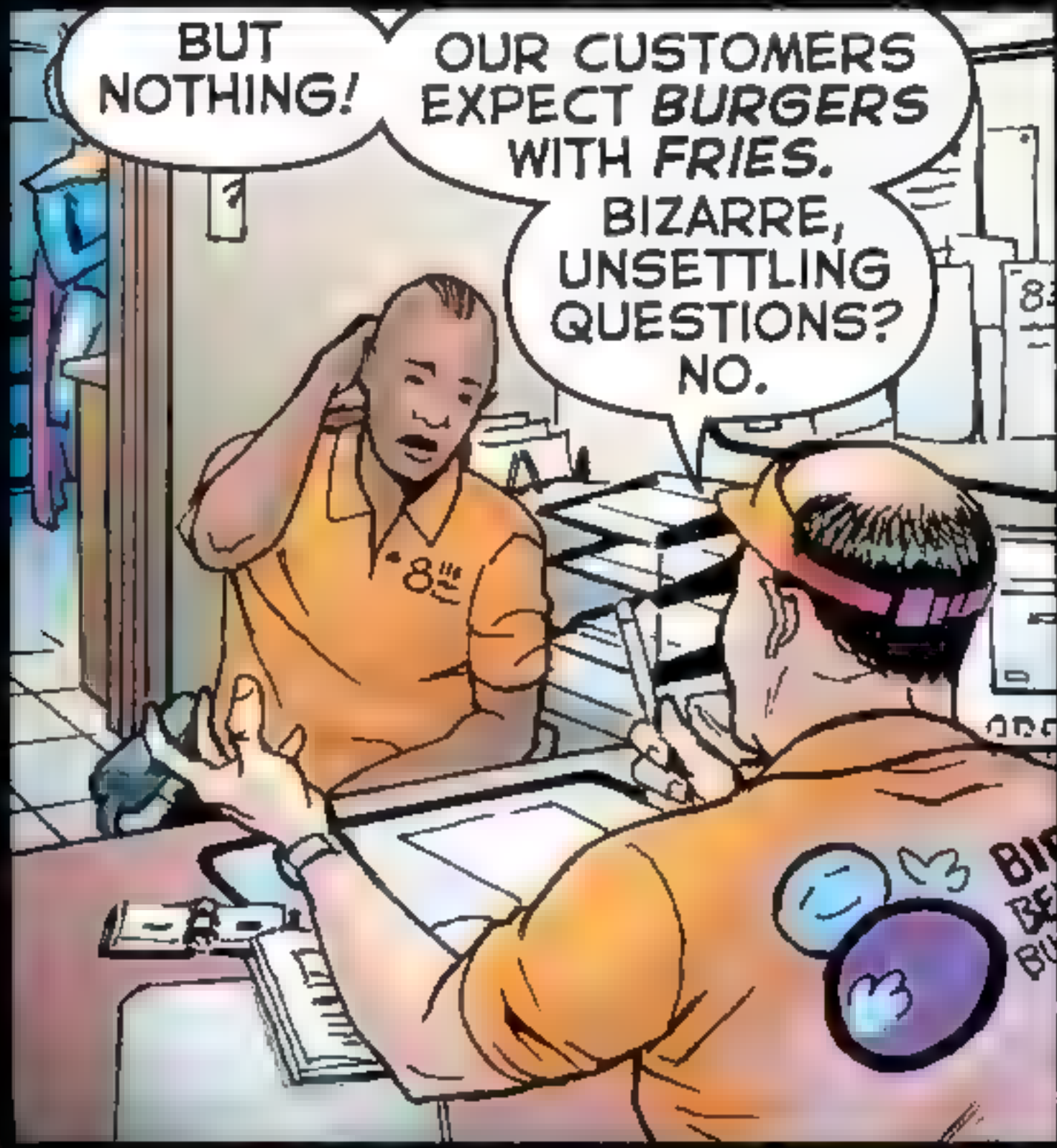
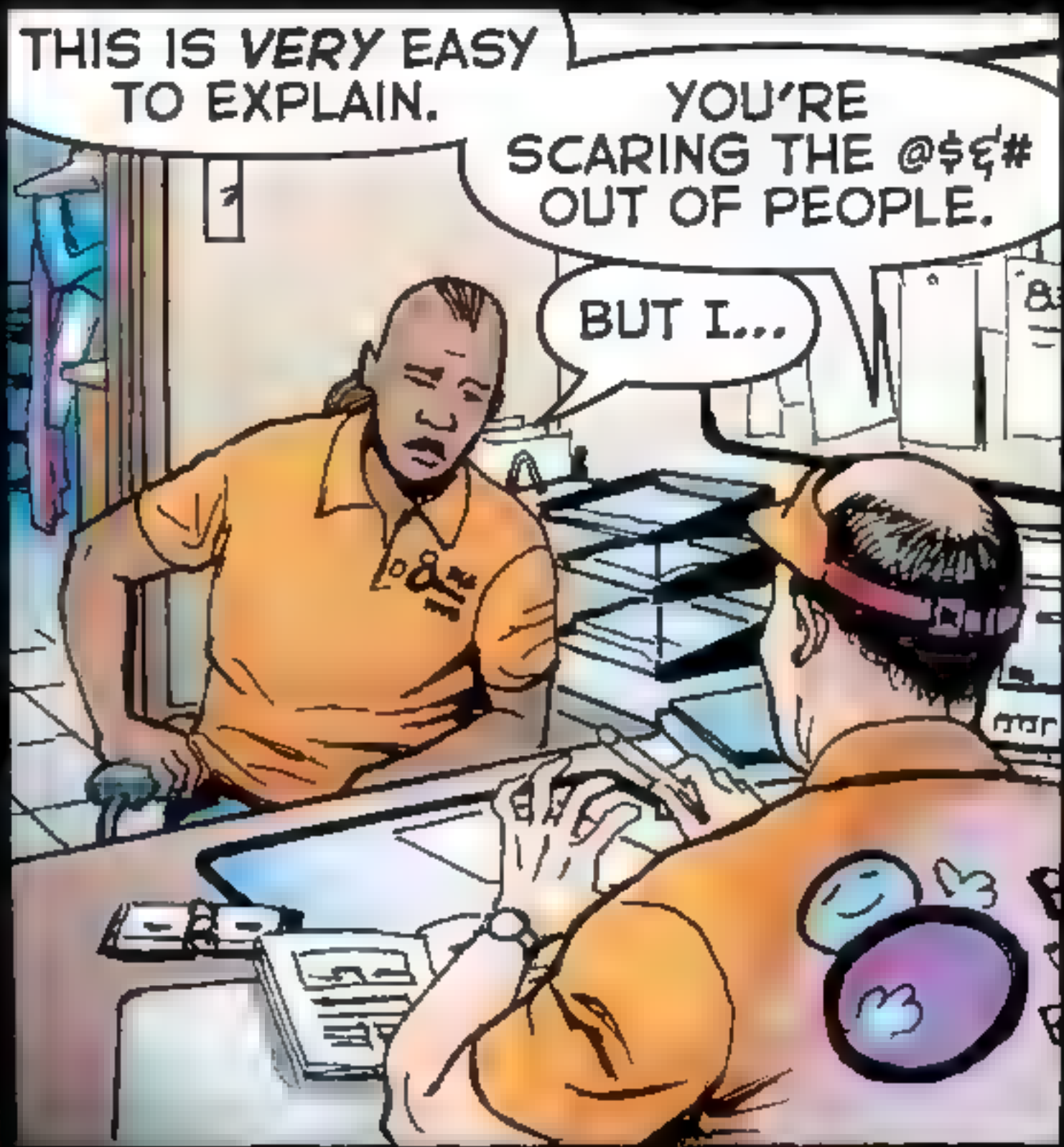
J.G. JONES
cover artist

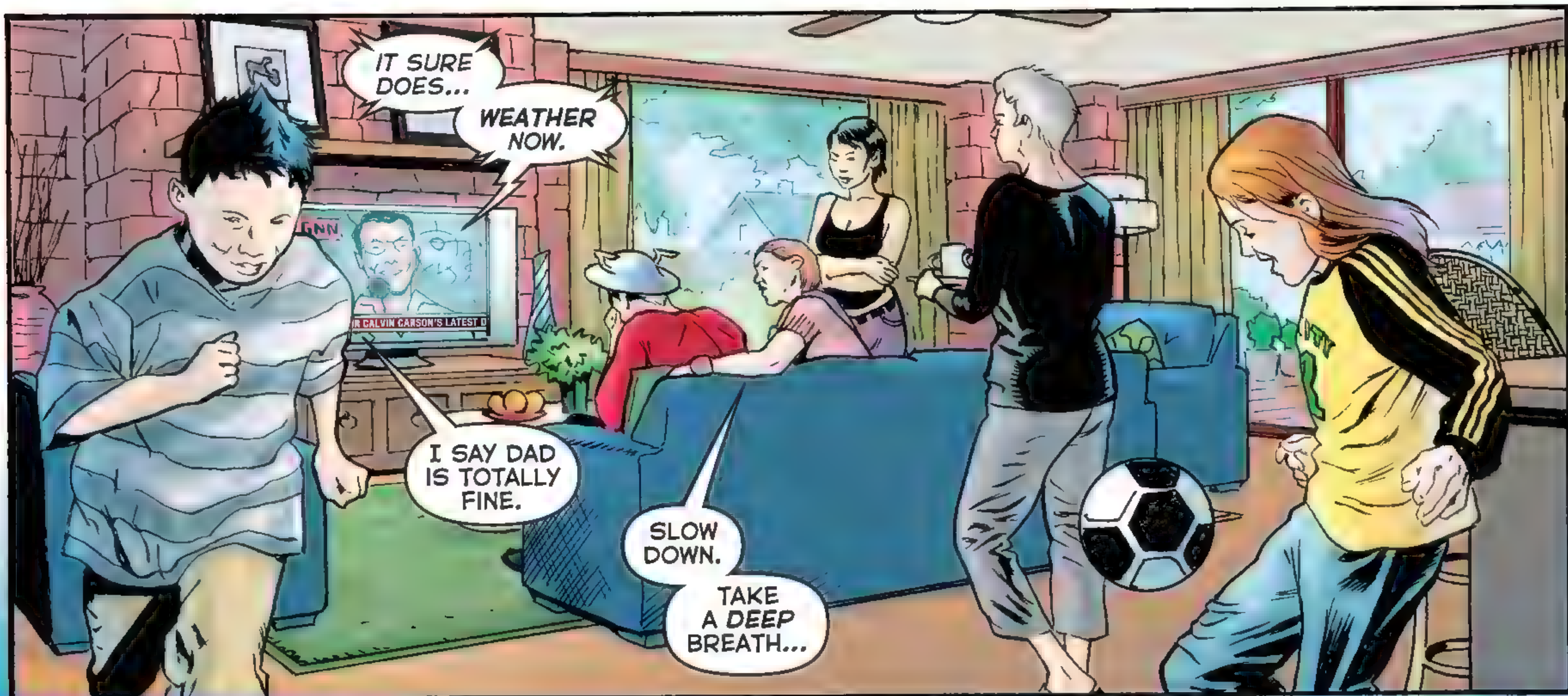


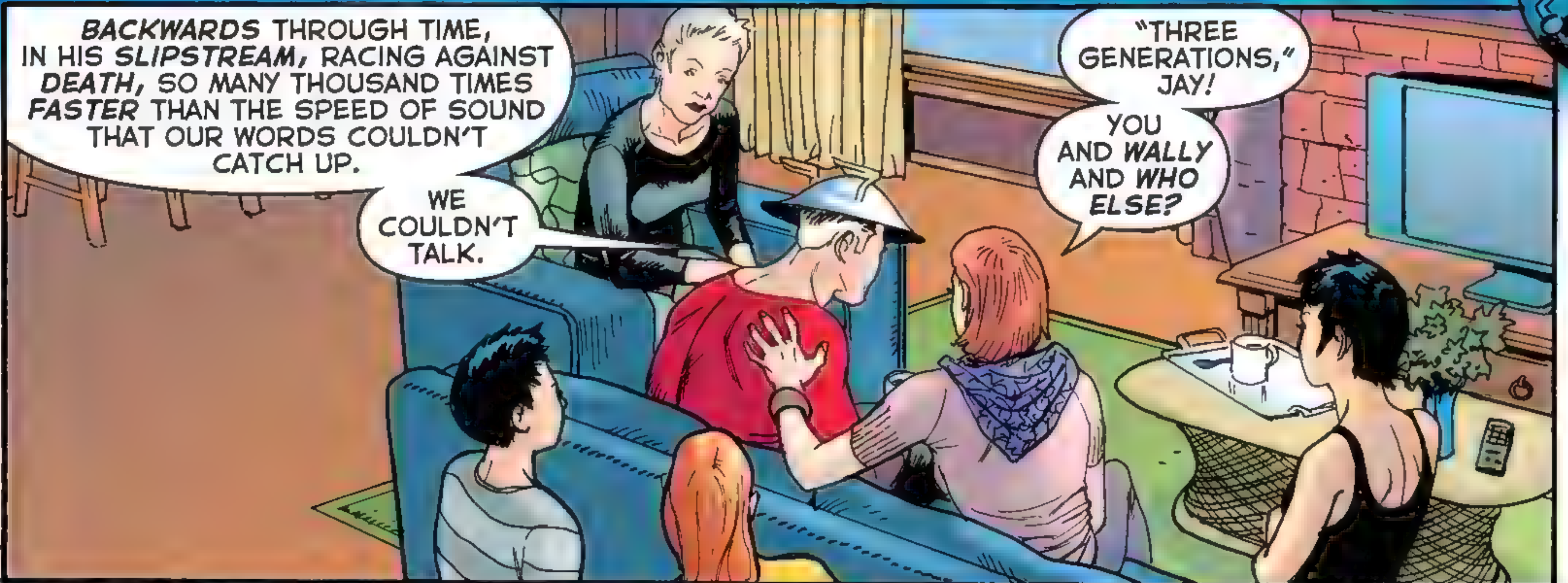
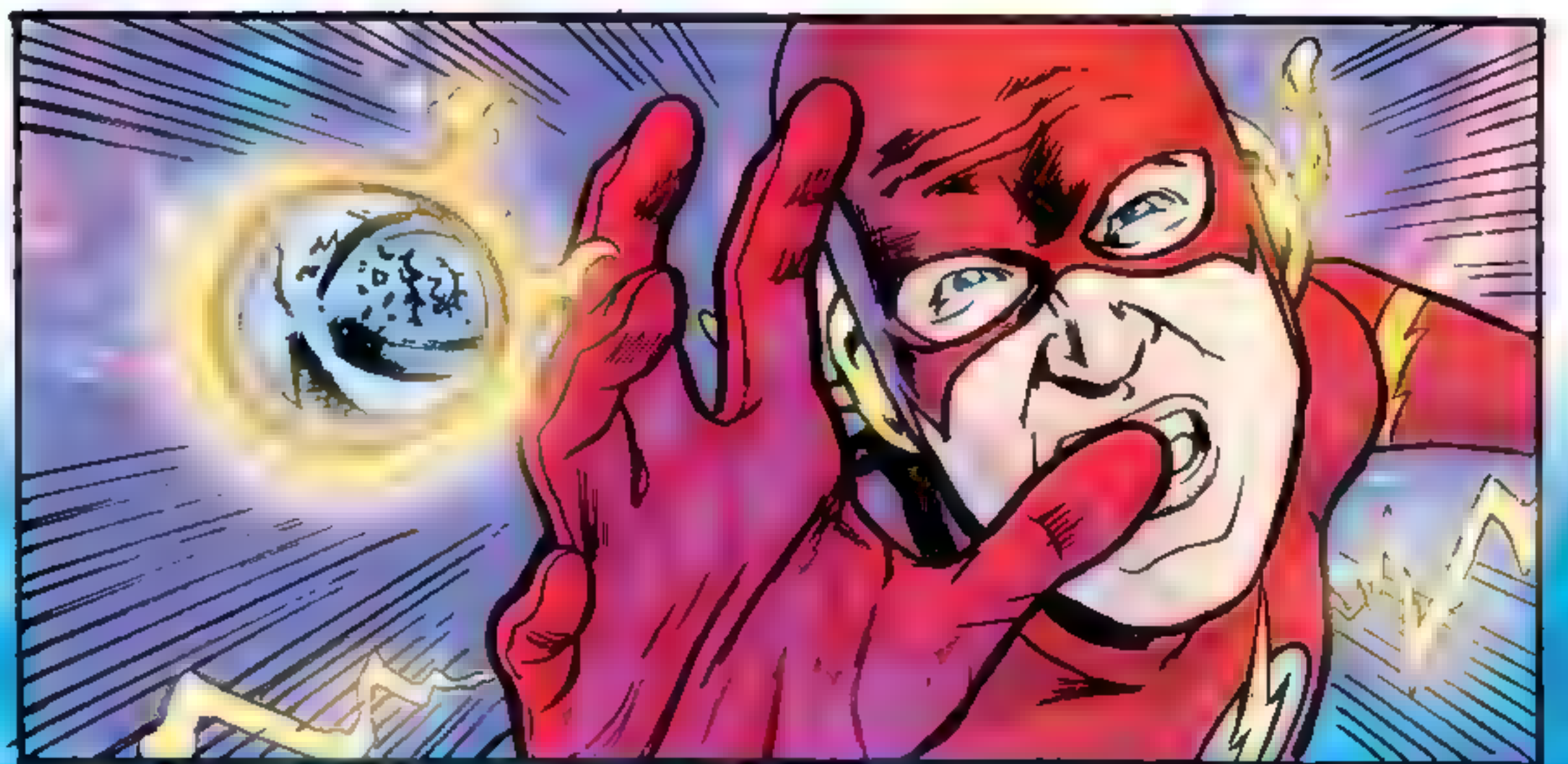
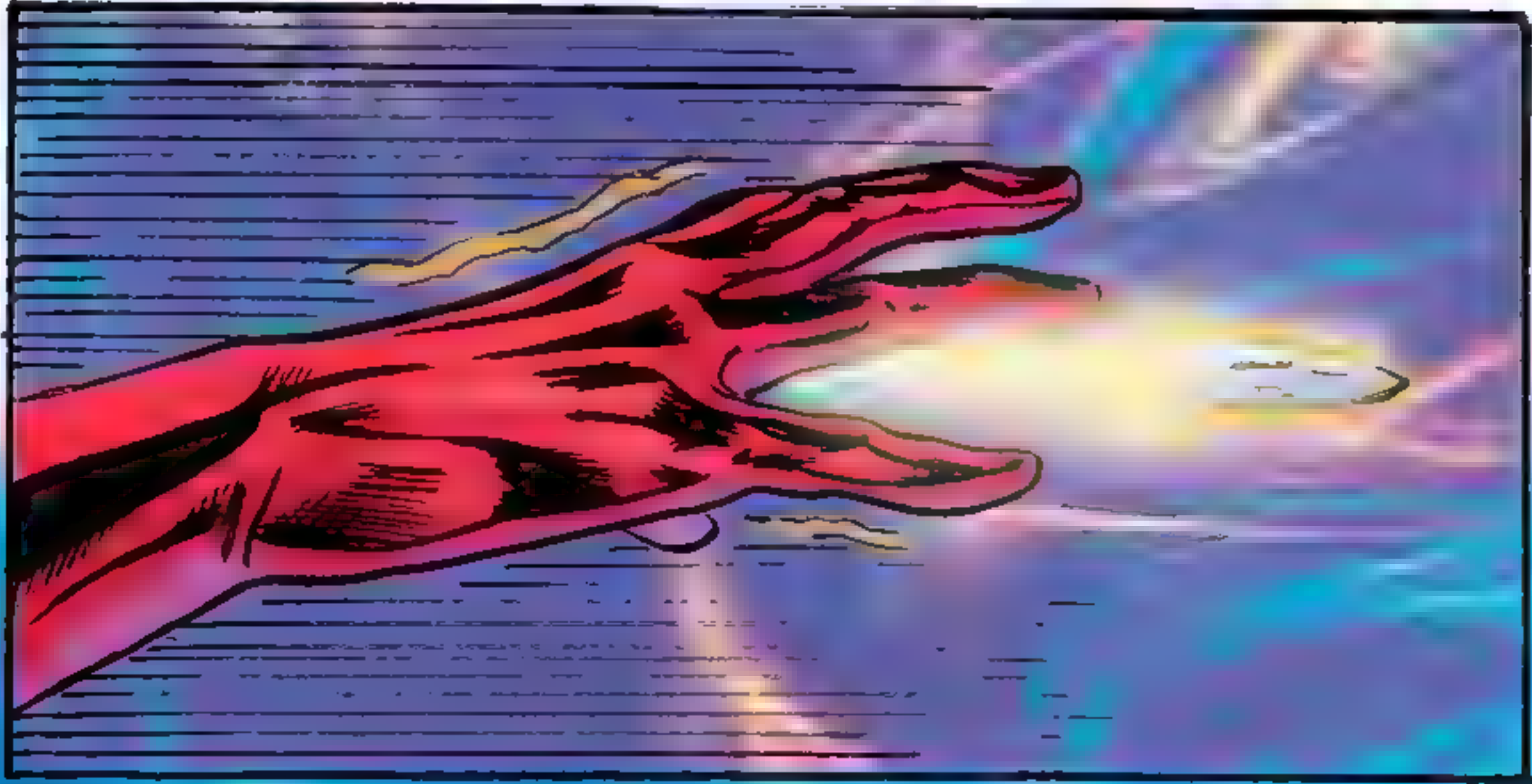


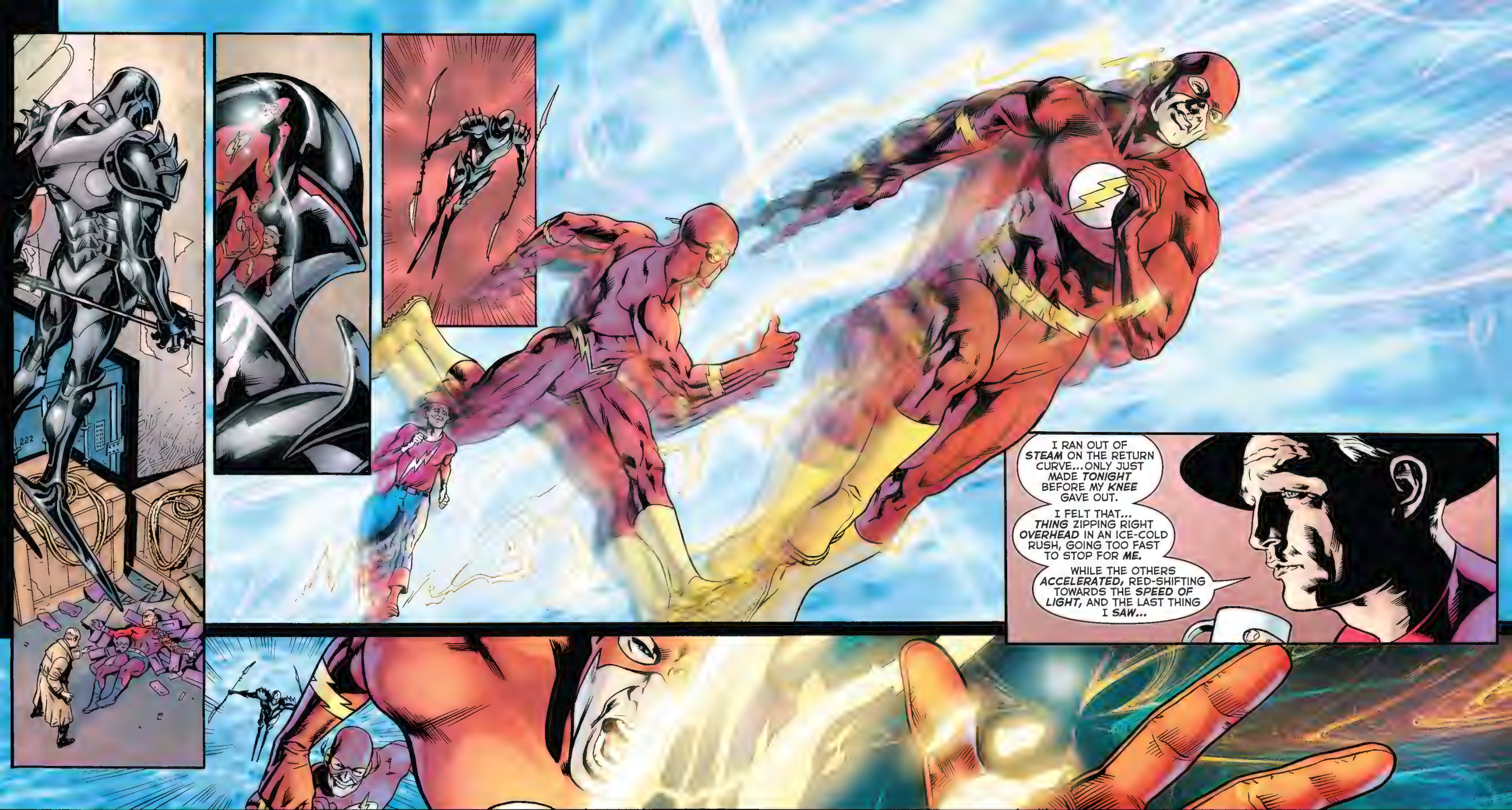












I RAN OUT OF
STEAM ON THE RETURN
CURVE...ONLY JUST
MADE TONIGHT
BEFORE MY KNEE
GAVE OUT.

I FELT THAT...
THING ZIPPING RIGHT
OVERHEAD IN AN ICE-COLD
RUSH, GOING TOO FAST
TO STOP FOR ME.

WHILE THE OTHERS
ACCELERATED, RED-SHIFTING
TOWARDS THE SPEED OF
LIGHT, AND THE LAST THING
I SAW...



IT'S A LITTLE-
KNOWN FACT THAT
DEATH CAN'T TRAVEL
FASTER THAN THE
SPEED OF LIGHT.

BUT
WALLY
CAN.

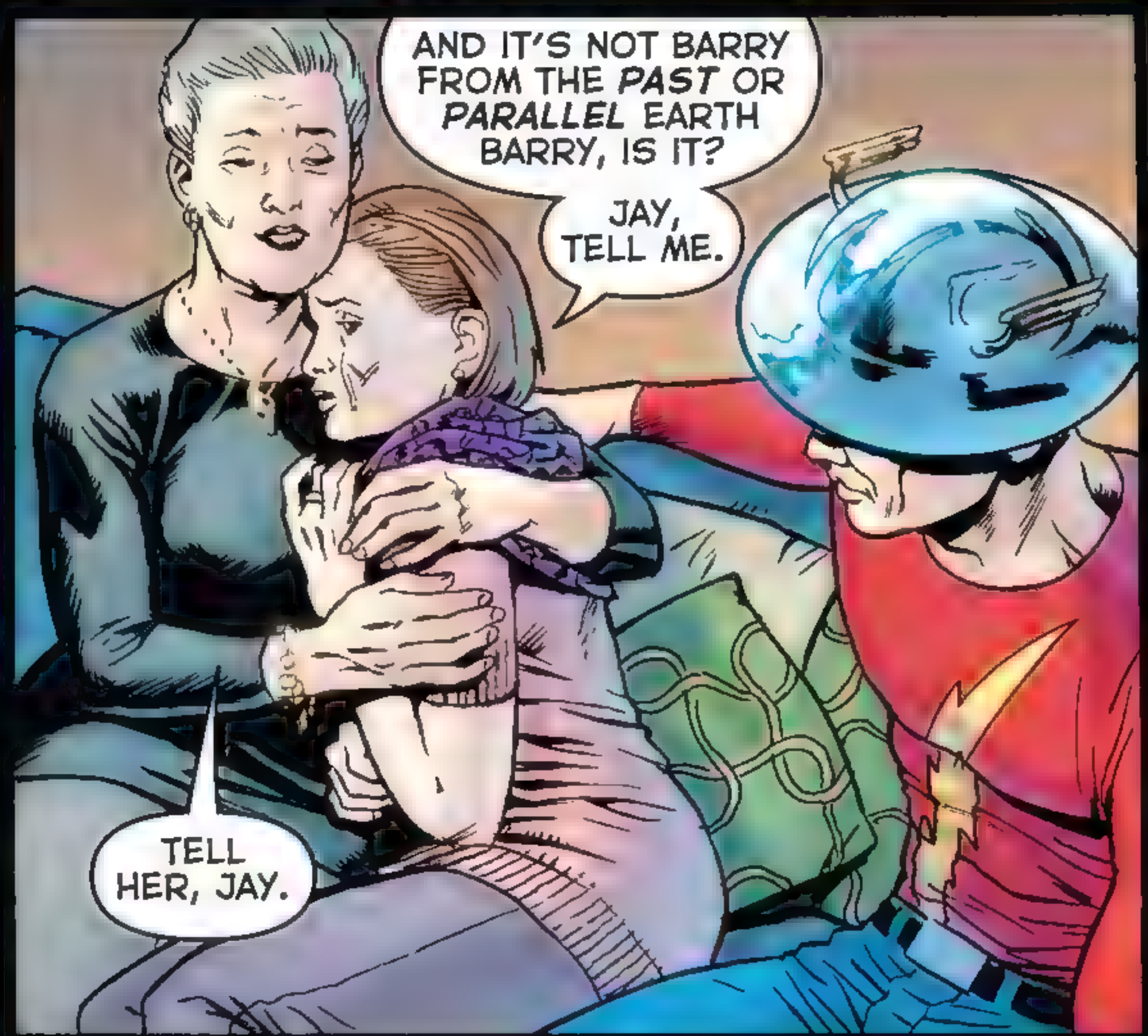
AND
IRIS, ON MY
SOUL...



THEY SAID HE WAS
DEAD...

ALL THESE
YEARS...AND
I KNEW, KNEW
HE'D NEVER BEEN
OUTSMARTED
BEFORE.

NOT MY
BARRY.



AND IT'S NOT BARRY
FROM THE PAST OR
PARALLEL EARTH
BARRY, IS IT?

JAY,
TELL ME.

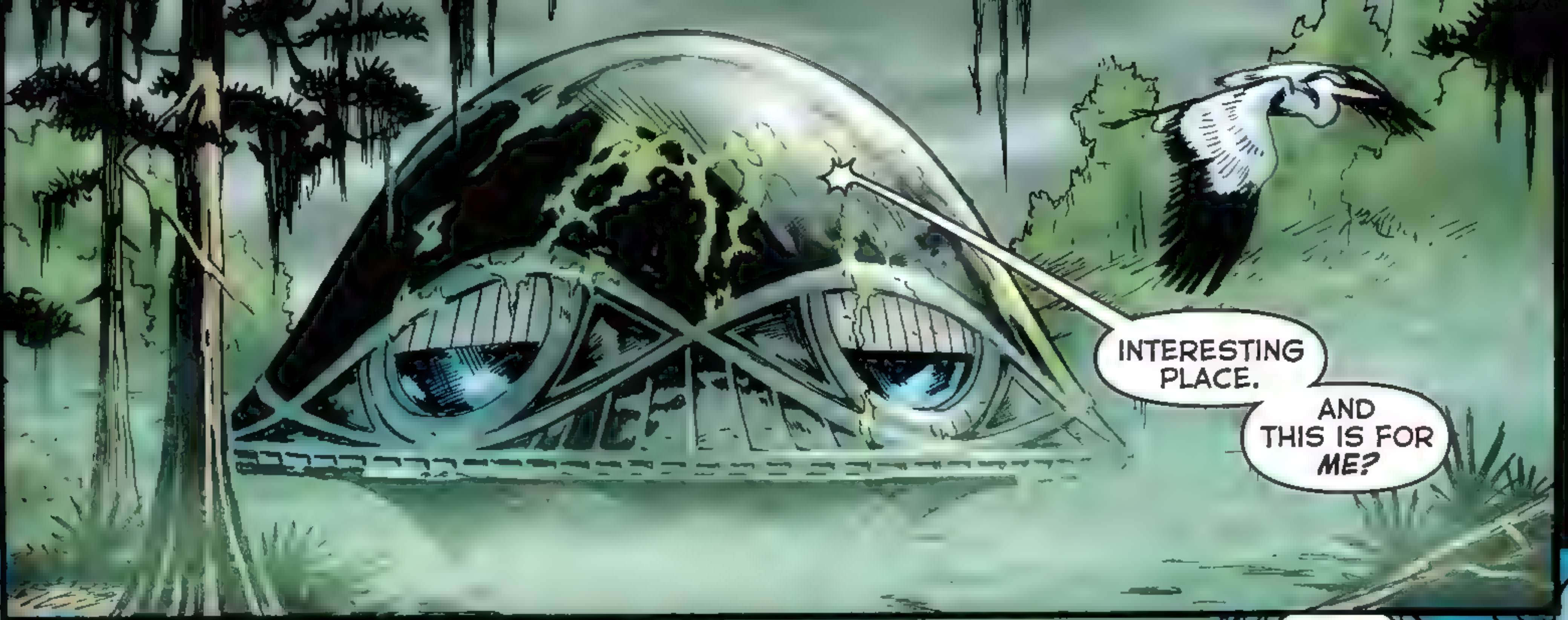
TELL
HER, JAY.



IT WAS
BARRY
ALLEN,
IRIS.

I'D KNOW
THAT AURA
ANYWHERE.

I SAW YOUR
HUSBAND
ALIVE.



INTERESTING PLACE.

AND THIS IS FOR ME?

BOSS, BOSS, YOU'RE WAY TOO GENEROUS.

IN FACT, IT'S STARTING TO COME OVER KINDA GAY, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING.

I MEAN, IT AIN'T I'M UNGRATEFUL... NOBODY EVER DID NUTHIN' FOR MIKE MILLER BEFORE...

MIKE, MIKE.

A NEW HIDEOUT, A NEW UNIFORM: IT'S YOUR COMMITMENT TO A HIGHER PURPOSE.

GO ON, TRY IT OUT.



Heh...HELMET'S PRETTY COOL, I GOTTA SAY, BUT I'M STILL SENTIMENTAL ABOUT THE OLD CRIME SUIT...

I CAN HEAR A VOICE...IS THERE A RADIO PLAYING IN THERE?

THAT MIGHT BE KINDA DISTRACTING.

A VOICE?

WHAT'S IT SAYING, MIKE?

LISTEN CLOSE.



Eh? YOU HEAR IT NOW, MIKE?

THAT'S THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION, YOU PATHETIC, IGNORANT LITTLE FAILURE!

...NO
nuhhh...I DON'T WANT THIS...
nuhhh...

uggghh



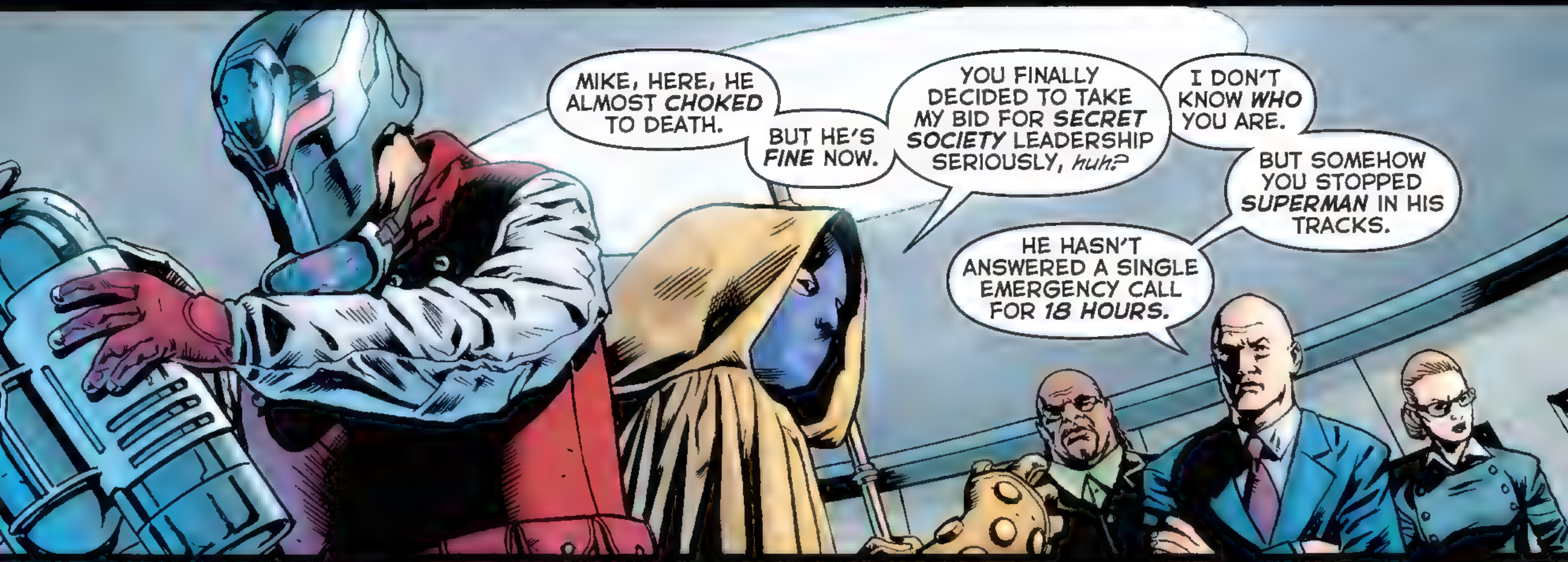
A-HEM!



LEX LUTHOR!

WHAT A TIME FOR YOU TO SPRING UP OUT OF NOWHERE.

SOCIETY MEETING'S NOT FOR ANOTHER THREE HOURS...



MIKE, HERE, HE
ALMOST **CHOKED**
TO DEATH.

BUT HE'S
FINE NOW.

YOU FINALLY
DECIDED TO TAKE
MY BID FOR **SECRET**
SOCIETY LEADERSHIP
SERIOUSLY, *huh?*

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE.

BUT SOMEHOW
YOU STOPPED
SUPERMAN IN HIS
TRACKS.

HE HASN'T
ANSWERED A SINGLE
EMERGENCY CALL
FOR **18 HOURS**.



Heh.

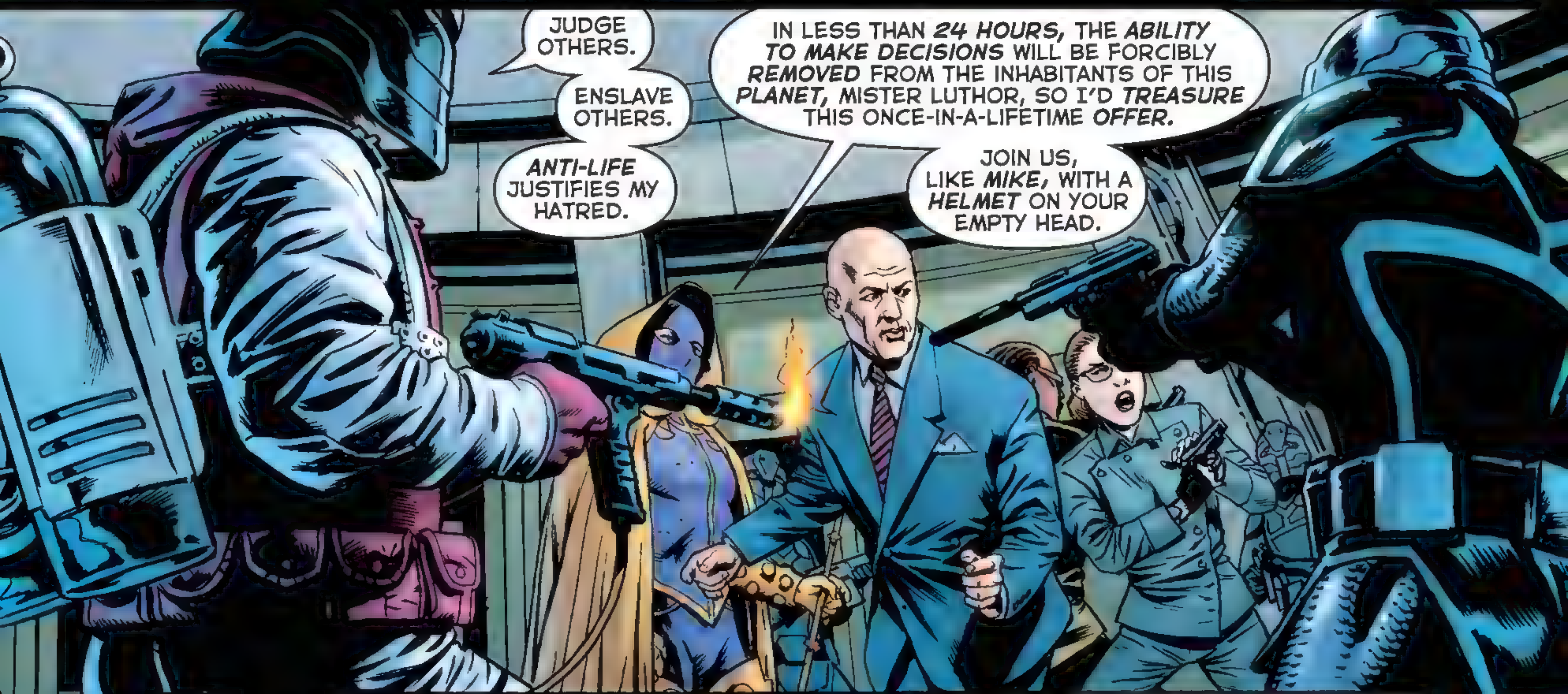
SO, LET'S
JUST SAY YOU
OWE ME.

NO, LET'S JUST
SAY YOURS IS A
THREAT WE INTEND
TO **NEUTRALIZE**,
LIBRA.

YOU REMEMBER MIKE,
DON'T YOU?

"HALFWIT" MIKE,
"NONENTITY" MIKE.
THE "HUMAN
FLAME."

MIKE'S
BECOMING PART
OF SOMETHING
MUCH **BIGGER** THAN
YOU NOW.



JUDGE
OTHERS.

ENSLAVE
OTHERS.

ANTI-LIFE
JUSTIFIES MY
HATRED.

IN LESS THAN **24 HOURS**, THE ABILITY
TO MAKE DECISIONS WILL BE FORCIBLY
REMOVED FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THIS
PLANET, MISTER LUTHOR, SO I'D **TREASURE**
THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OFFER.

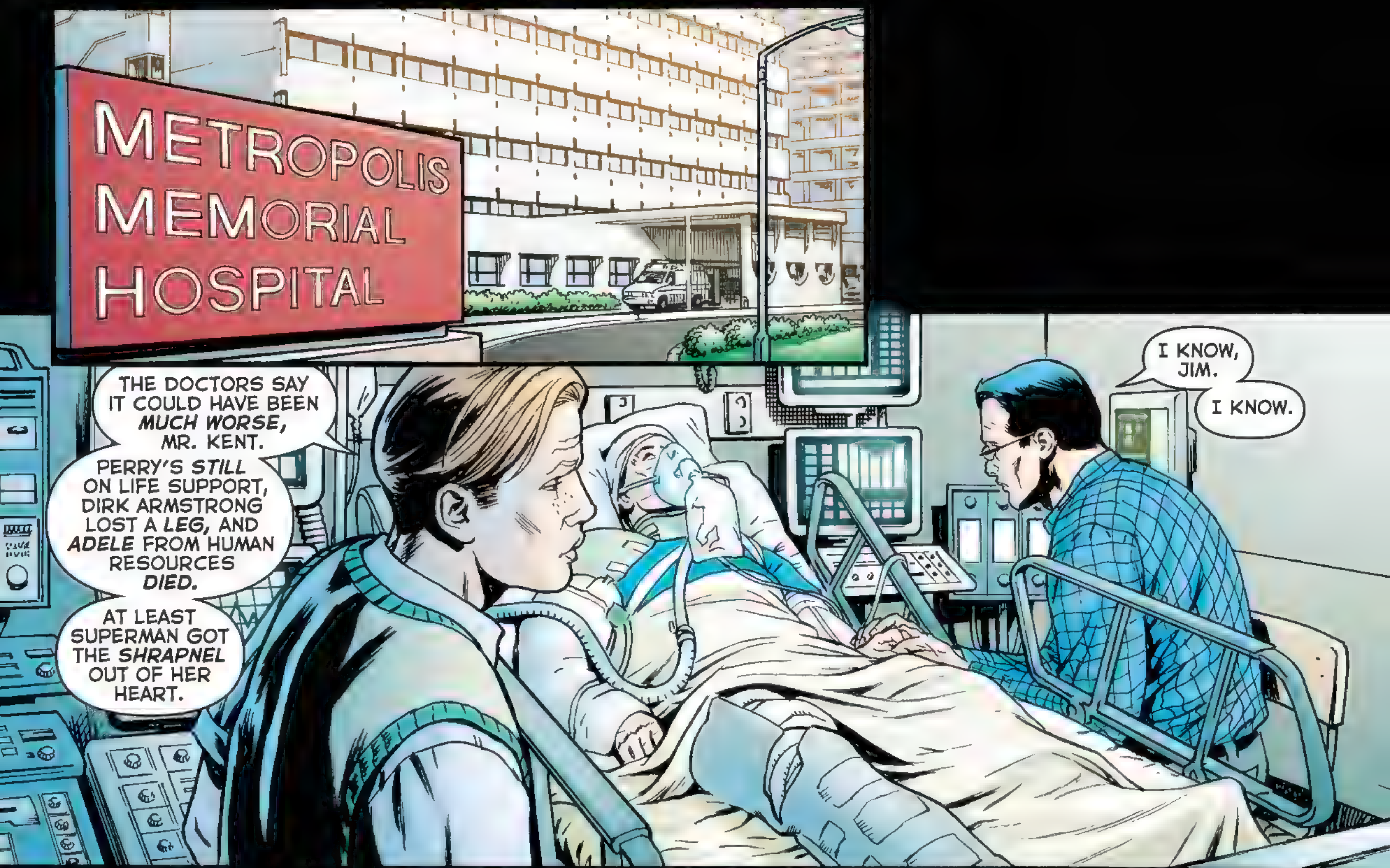
JOIN US,
LIKE MIKE, WITH A
HELMET ON YOUR
EMPTY HEAD.



OR RENOUNCE **SCIENCE**,
SWEAR AN OATH ON THE **BIBLE**
OF CRIME AND PLEDGE YOUR
SERVICE TO THE **MASTER**
OF ALL EVIL.

THE DAY OF
APOKOLIPS IS AT HAND,
SIR, AND I AM ONLY
ITS **PROPHET**.

CHOOSE.



THE DOCTORS SAY IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE, MR. KENT.

PERRY'S STILL ON LIFE SUPPORT, DIRK ARMSTRONG LOST A LEG, AND ADELE FROM HUMAN RESOURCES DIED.

AT LEAST SUPERMAN GOT THE SHRAPNEL OUT OF HER HEART.

I KNOW, JIM.

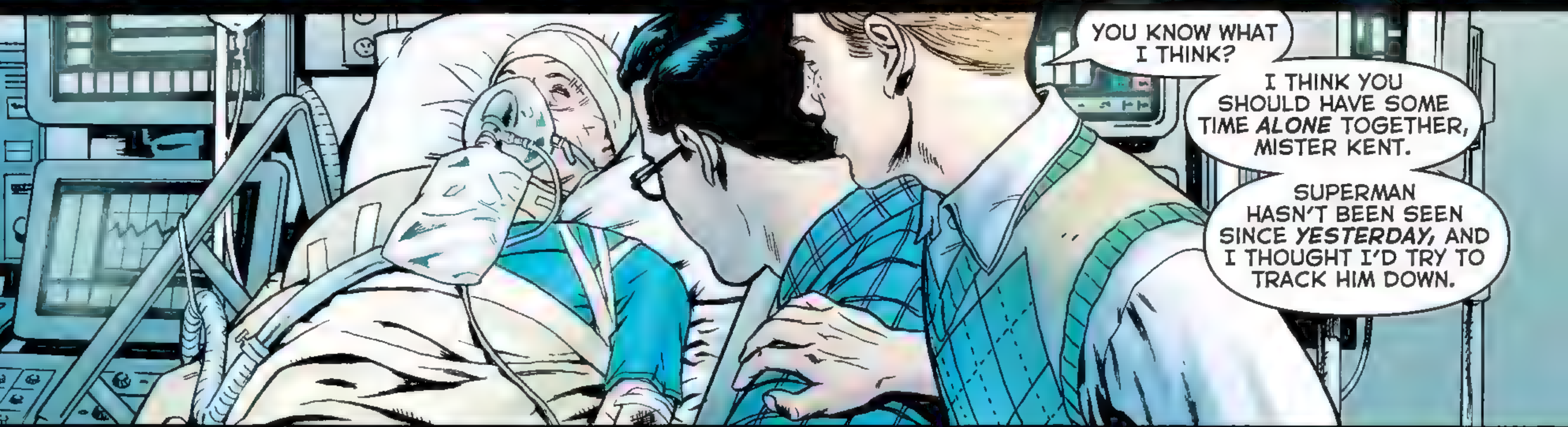
I KNOW.



BUT I WAS THERE.

IF I'D SUSPECTED WHAT WAS HAPPENING, IF I'D ONLY MOVED FAST ENOUGH.

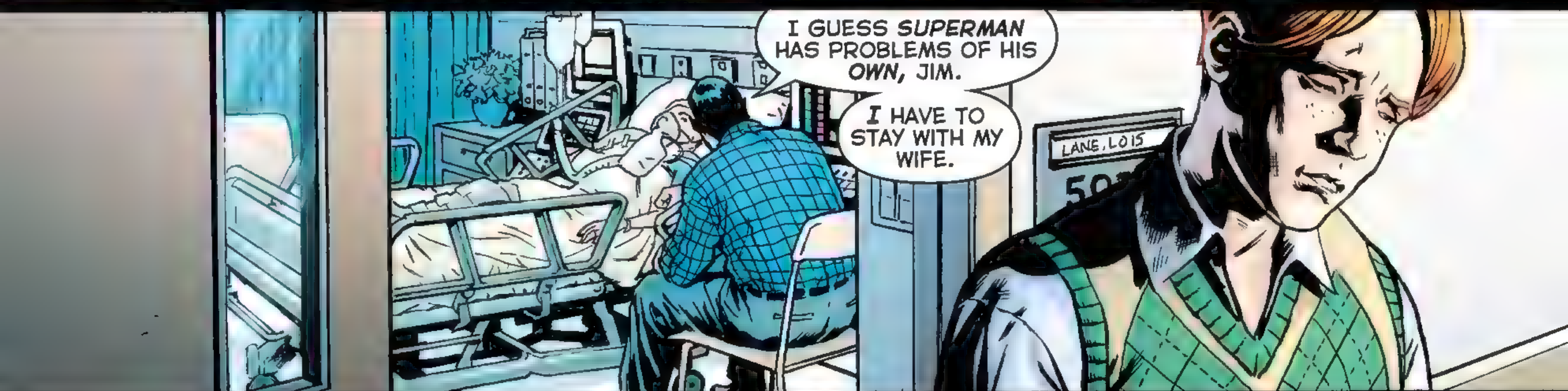
NOT EVEN SUPERMAN COULD HAVE REACHED THE BOMB IN TIME.



YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

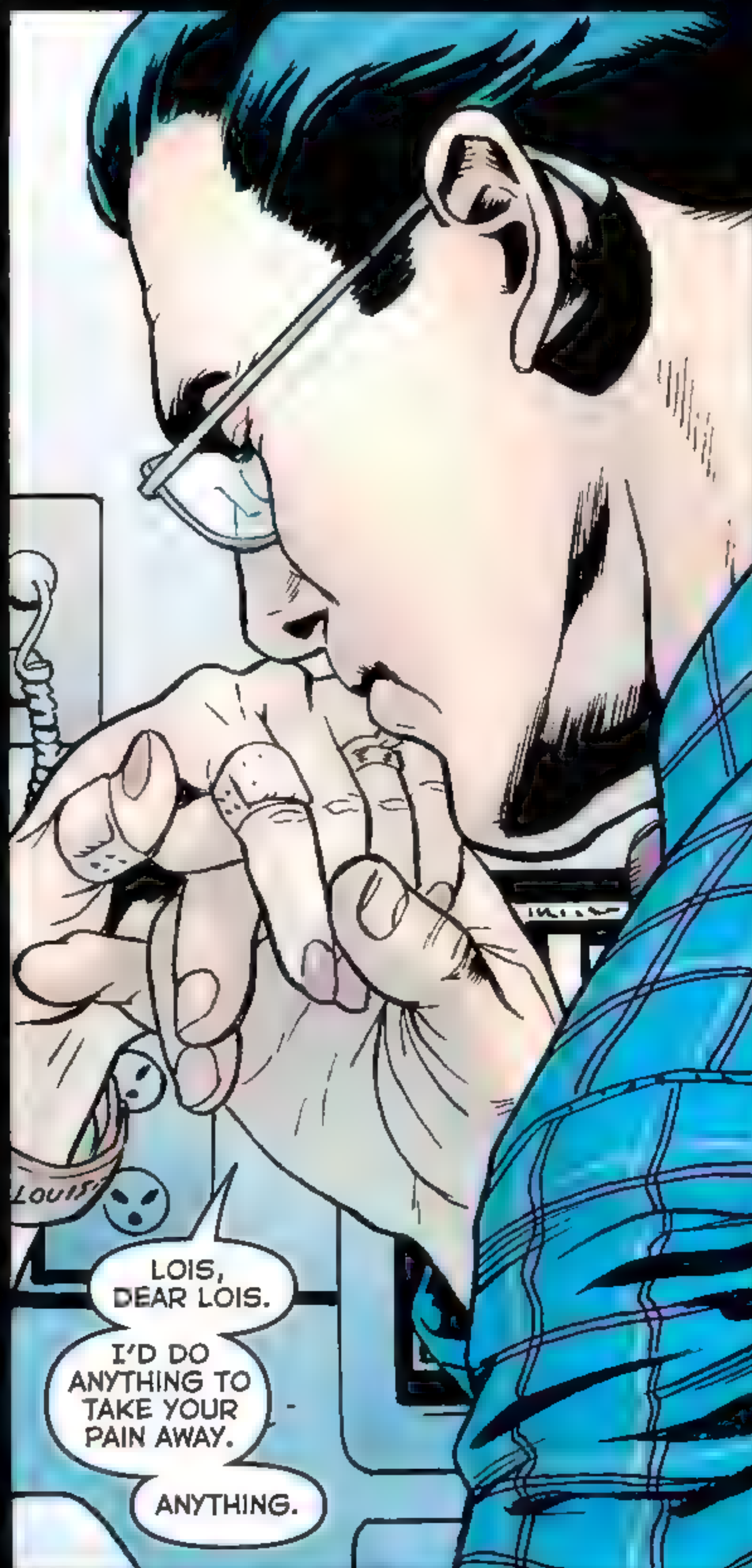
I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME TIME ALONE TOGETHER, MISTER KENT.

SUPERMAN HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE YESTERDAY, AND I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO TRACK HIM DOWN.



I GUESS SUPERMAN HAS PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN, JIM.

I HAVE TO STAY WITH MY WIFE.

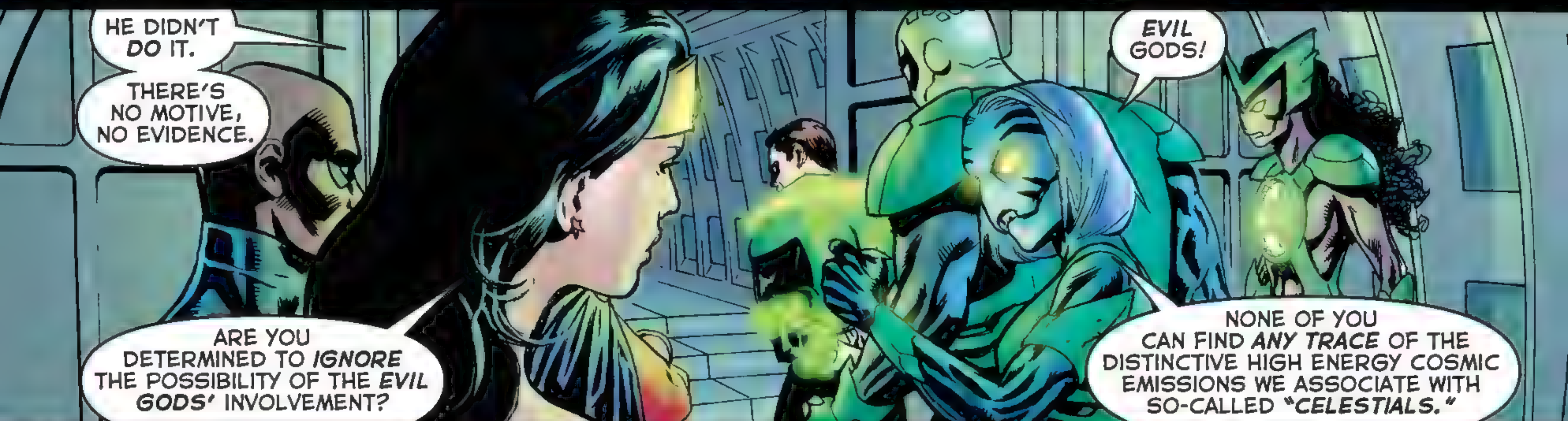




NO LANTERN
ESCAPES THE
ALPHA
LANTERNS!

I KNOW YOU
NEVER SEEM TO GET
TIRED OF SAYING THAT,
BOODIKKA, BUT LIKE
I TOLD YOU...

I'LL COME
QUIETLY.



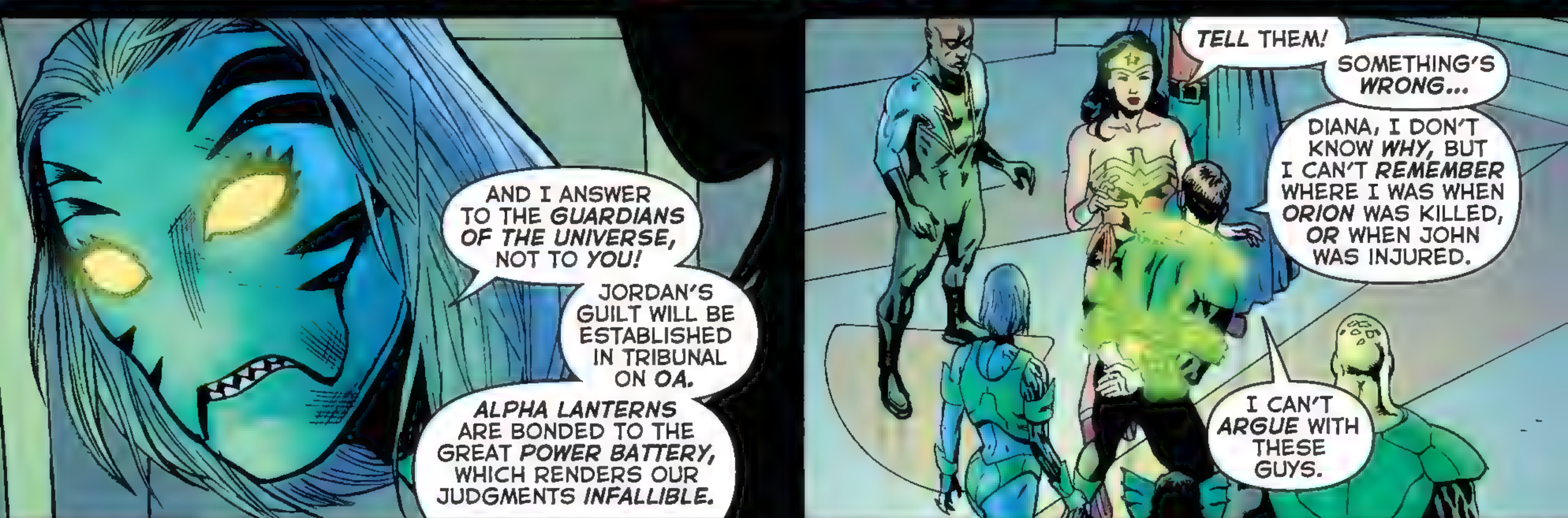
HE DIDN'T
DO IT.

THERE'S
NO MOTIVE,
NO EVIDENCE.

ARE YOU
DETERMINED TO IGNORE
THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EVIL
GODS' INVOLVEMENT?

EVIL
GODS!

NONE OF YOU
CAN FIND ANY TRACE OF THE
DISTINCTIVE HIGH ENERGY COSMIC
EMISSIONS WE ASSOCIATE WITH
SO-CALLED "CELESTIALS."



AND I ANSWER
TO THE GUARDIANS
OF THE UNIVERSE,
NOT TO YOU!

JORDAN'S
GUILT WILL BE
ESTABLISHED
IN TRIBUNAL
ON OA.

ALPHA LANTERNS
ARE BONDED TO THE
GREAT POWER BATTERY,
WHICH RENDERS OUR
JUDGMENTS INFALLIBLE.

TELL THEM!

SOMETHING'S
WRONG...

DIANA, I DON'T
KNOW WHY, BUT
I CAN'T REMEMBER
WHERE I WAS WHEN
ORION WAS KILLED,
OR WHEN JOHN
WAS INJURED.

I CAN'T
ARGUE WITH
THESE
GUYS.



LET ME TALK TO THE
GUARDIANS.

I'LL BE
FINE.

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT
EARTH: ONLY GREEN LANTERNS
IN OR OUT NOW.



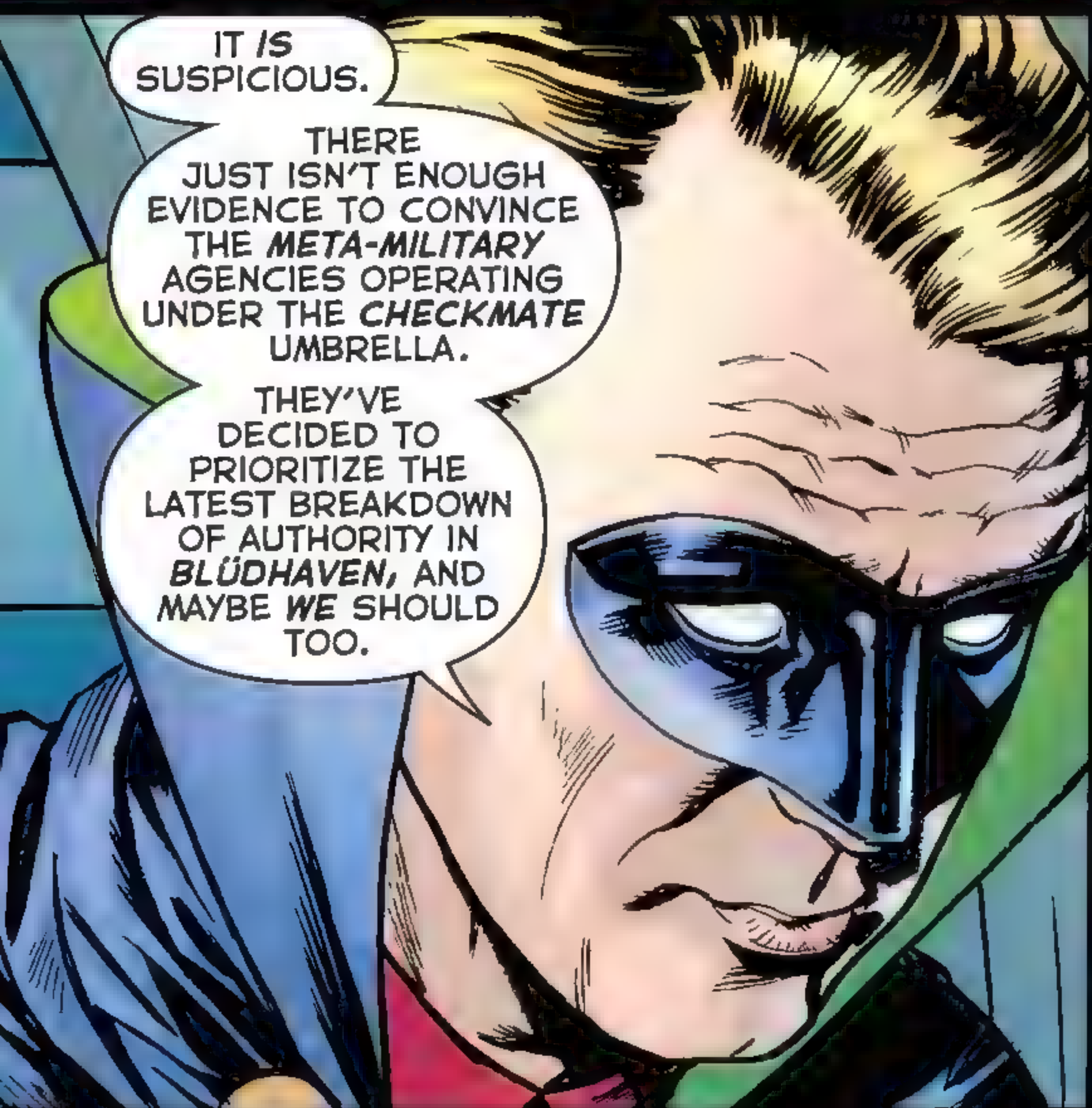
RIDICULOUS.

I TRIED TO MAKE THEM SEE REASON, BUT I'M A **GREEN LANTERN** IN NAME ONLY.

YOU'RE STILL CONVINCED **DARKSEID** IS INVOLVED?

SOMEONE MURDERED A **NEW GOD** AND DUMPED HIS BODY HERE ON EARTH!

SUPERMAN IS AT THE BEDSIDE OF HIS INJURED WIFE, **BATMAN** IS MISSING...



IT IS SUSPICIOUS.

THERE JUST ISN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVINCE THE **META-MILITARY** AGENCIES OPERATING UNDER THE **CHECKMATE UMBRELLA**.

THEY'VE DECIDED TO PRIORITIZE THE LATEST BREAKDOWN OF AUTHORITY IN **BLUDHAVEN**, AND MAYBE WE SHOULD TOO.



WE ALL KNOW **HAL JORDAN** DIDN'T DO IT.

YOU ASK ME *WHY* I FEEL CERTAIN THE EVIL GODS ARE INVOLVED.

INTUITION. WILL THAT DO?

DIANA, IN THE PAST, WE COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON THE **NEW GODS** TO HELP DEFEND US AGAINST THEIR EVIL COUNTERPARTS.



WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THEIR WARRIORS AND **TECHNOLOGY**...WE'D BE AT A FRIGHTENING DISADVANTAGE.

WE'D NEED TO START TRAINING AN ARMY.



Hmmm.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.

DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW **PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT** HELPED US ASSEMBLE OVER FIFTY MYSTERY MEN AND WOMEN AS THE **ALL-STAR SQUADRON** SO QUICKLY BACK IN THE WAR?

HIPPOLYTA, MY MOTHER, TOLD ME ABOUT THIS.

ARTICLE X?
THE DRAFT FOR SUPERHEROES?



WITHOUT J'ONN J'ONZZ, YOU'LL BE THE HUB OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS, ORACLE.

WE'VE SET YOU UP IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE WITH THE BEST EQUIPMENT MONEY CAN'T BUY.

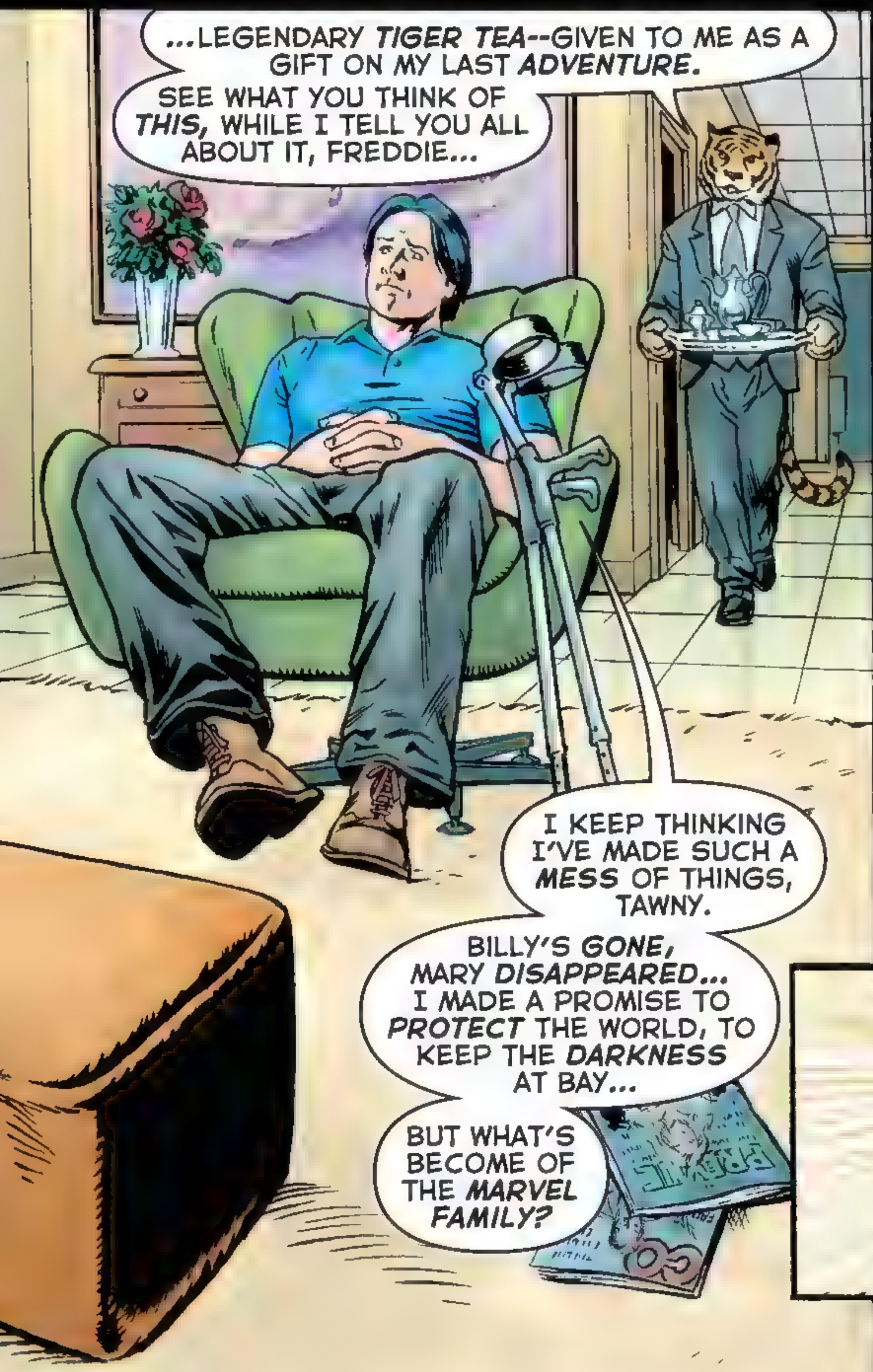
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SERVE ON THE FRONTLINES, BUT YOU'LL BE INDISPENSABLE TO OUR PREPARATION.

HEY.
THEY ALSO SERVE WHO HAVE A HUGE NETWORK OF FRIENDS.

I EVEN SCORED A CONNECTION TO THIS MYSTERIOUS NEW AQUAMAN WHO'S SHOWN UP.



ARTICLE X?

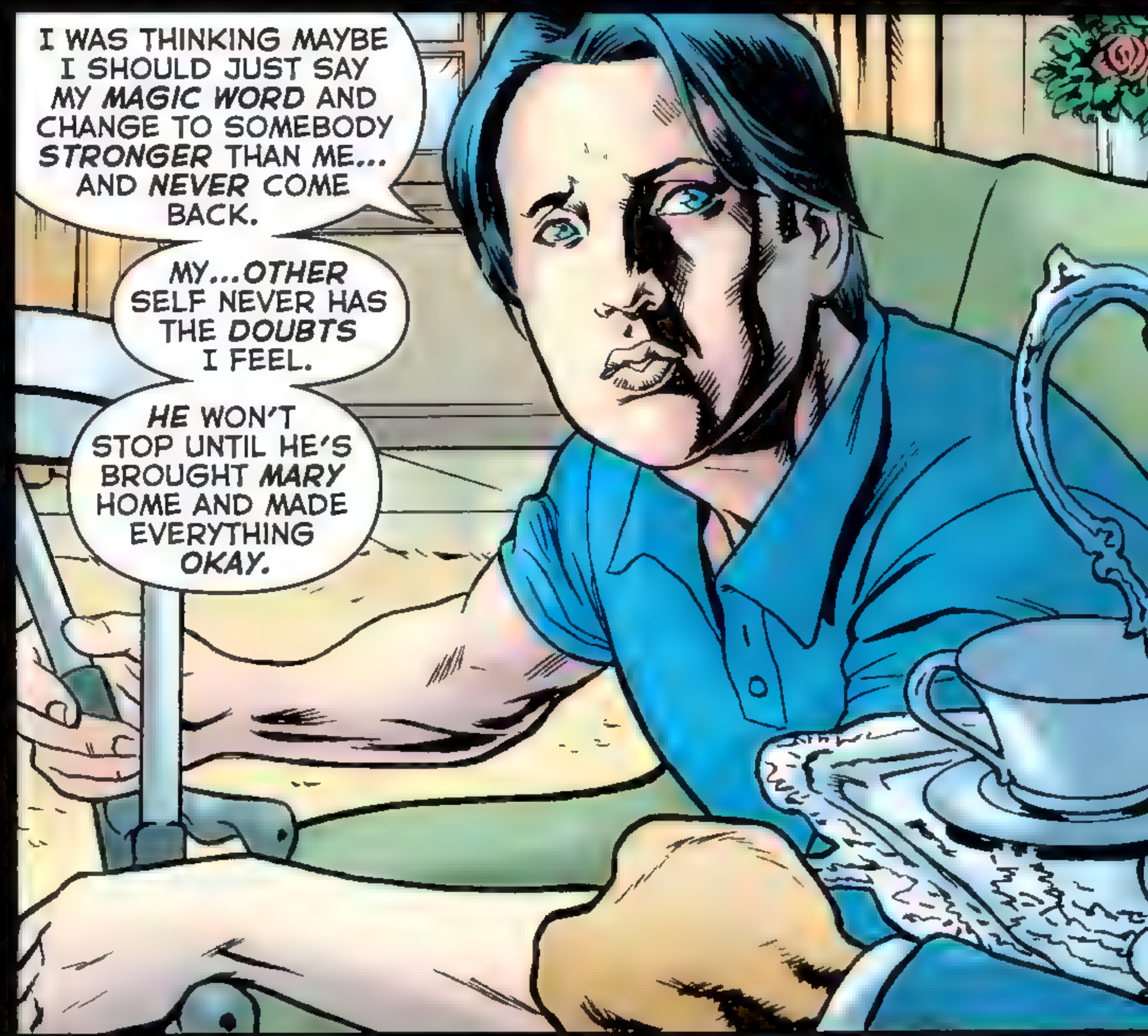


...LEGENDARY **TIGER TEA**--GIVEN TO ME AS A GIFT ON MY LAST ADVENTURE. SEE WHAT YOU THINK OF **THIS**, WHILE I TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, FREDDIE...

I KEEP THINKING I'VE MADE SUCH A MESS OF THINGS, TAWNY.

BILLY'S GONE, MARY DISAPPEARED... I MADE A PROMISE TO PROTECT THE WORLD, TO KEEP THE DARKNESS AT BAY...

BUT WHAT'S BECOME OF THE MARVEL FAMILY?



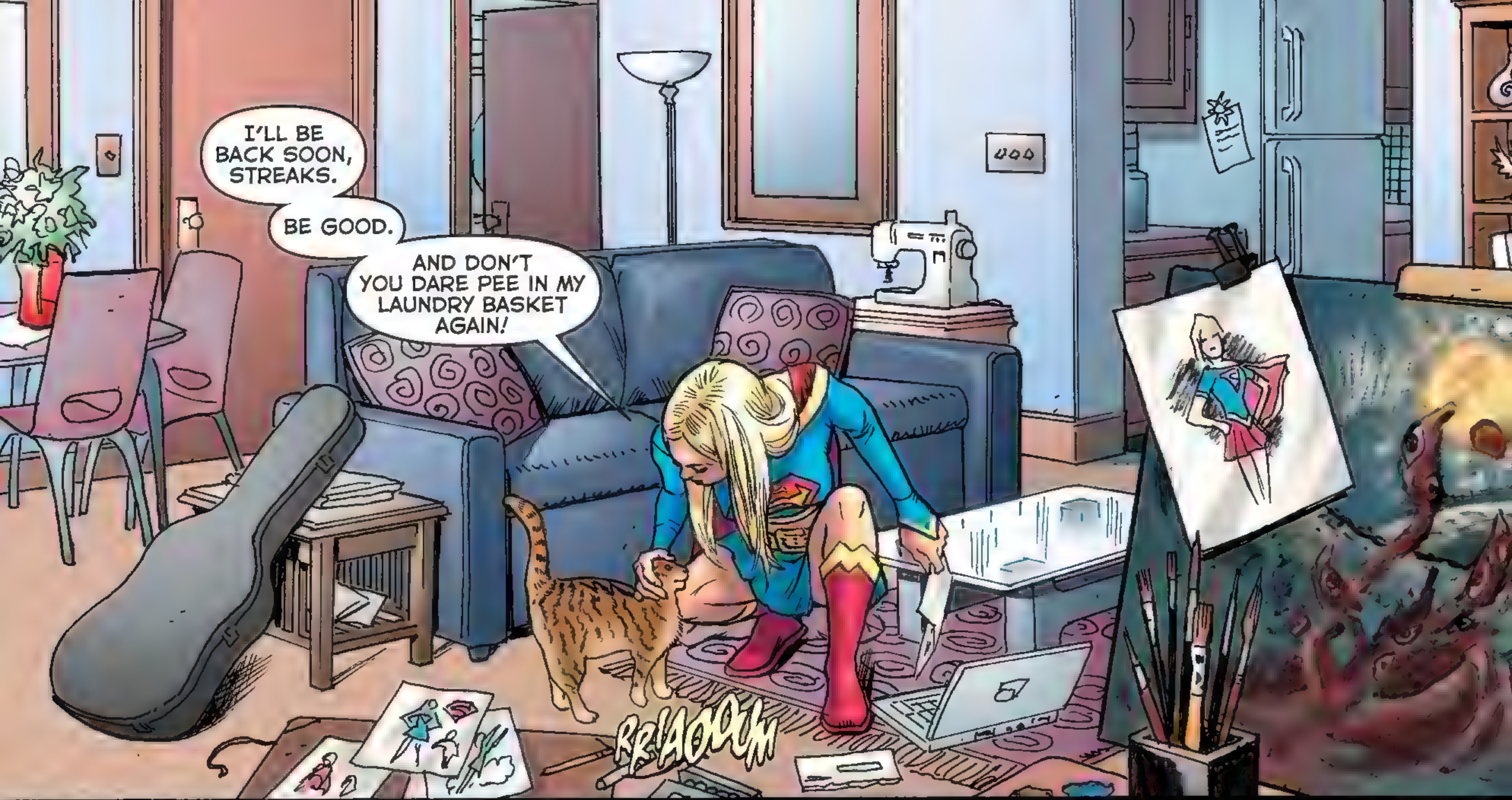
I WAS THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SAY MY MAGIC WORD AND CHANGE TO SOMEBODY STRONGER THAN ME... AND NEVER COME BACK.

MY...OTHER SELF NEVER HAS THE DOUBTS I FEEL.

HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE'S BROUGHT MARY HOME AND MADE EVERYTHING OKAY.



SHAZAM



I'LL BE BACK SOON, STREAKS.

BE GOOD.

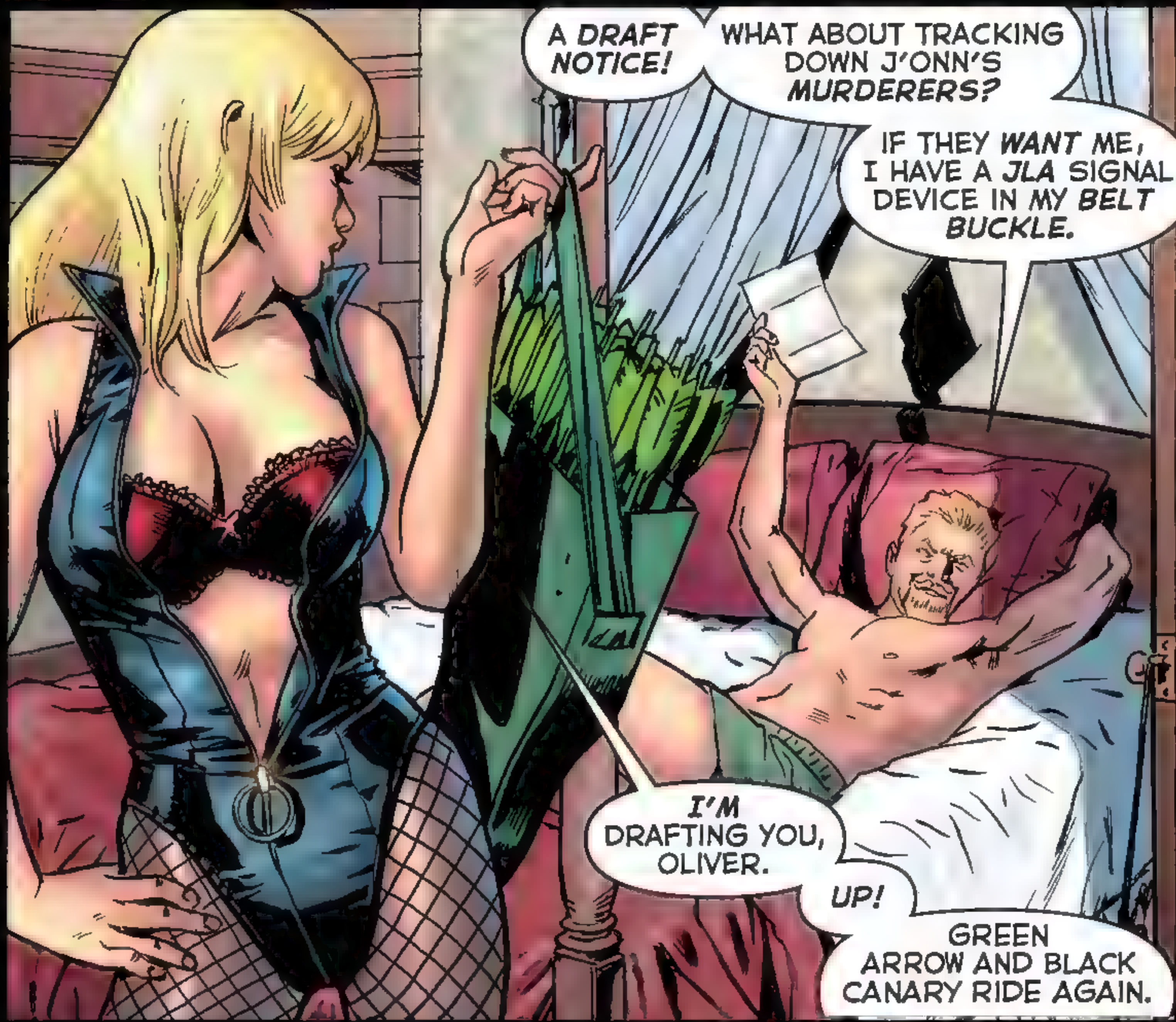
AND DON'T YOU DARE PEE IN MY LAUNDRY BASKET AGAIN!

RRRAOOWW



I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO SAY THIS AGAIN...

WHERE'S MY JET PACK?



A DRAFT NOTICE!

WHAT ABOUT TRACKING DOWN J'ONN'S MURDERERS?

IF THEY WANT ME, I HAVE A JLA SIGNAL DEVICE IN MY BELT BUCKLE.

I'M DRAFTING YOU, OLIVER.

UP!

GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY RIDE AGAIN.



IF ANYBODY FALLS FOR THIS AUTHORITARIAN, MILITARISTIC CRAP, IT'LL PROVE I'M ABSOLUTELY RIGHT ABOUT ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!...



I'M
PROUD OF
YOU.

ALL OF
YOU.

LET'S SEE
ANY ENEMY
STAND AGAINST
US.



...THEN THREE DAYS LATER, I CRAWLED OUT OF MY OWN GRAVE.

THE WHOLE WORLD THOUGHT IT WAS *MISTER MIRACLE'S* BIGGEST EVER STUNT.

BUT IT WAS REAL-- WHAT I DID WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

FOR A MAN PERHAPS.

MAYBE NOT FOR MOTHERBOXXX.



YOU STARTING TO BELIEVE ME?

JUST WHEN I HAVE TO LEAVE JAPAN?

I BELIEVE YOU BELIEVE... AND I CAN'T DENY THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL, EVEN FAMILIAR, ABOUT THAT BOX OF YOURS.

I'LL BE THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE SAID.

MAYBE I CAN JUST ABOUT BUY THE IDEA THAT THE POWERS OF EVIL HAVE GOT THEIR HOOKS INTO THE WORLD.



BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK A SUMO WRESTLER AND AN ESCAPE ARTIST ARE THE ONES TO FIGHT BACK?

SHOWBIZ PEOPLE?

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A CHOICE.

I DON'T THINK ANYBODY HAS RIGHT NOW.

SEEMS TO ME WE'RE ALL GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT *THIS* WAR SOONER THAN LATER.



SHILO NORMAN!

DOWN!





I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M IN THE WONDER WAGON WITH MISTER MIRACLE!

I HAVE YOUR PICTURE HERE ON MY PHONE!

REALLY, IT'S SOMEWHERE RIGHT HERE!

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT.

CANCEL MY FIGHT WITH KILLOTRON TONIGHT.

I'M ON A MISSION FROM THE GODS.

AND DON'T FORGET SONNY SUMO!

LISTEN TO ME--YOU KIDS SAVED OUR LIVES AND THAT'S COOL, BUT YOU CAN'T GET WRAPPED UP IN THIS!

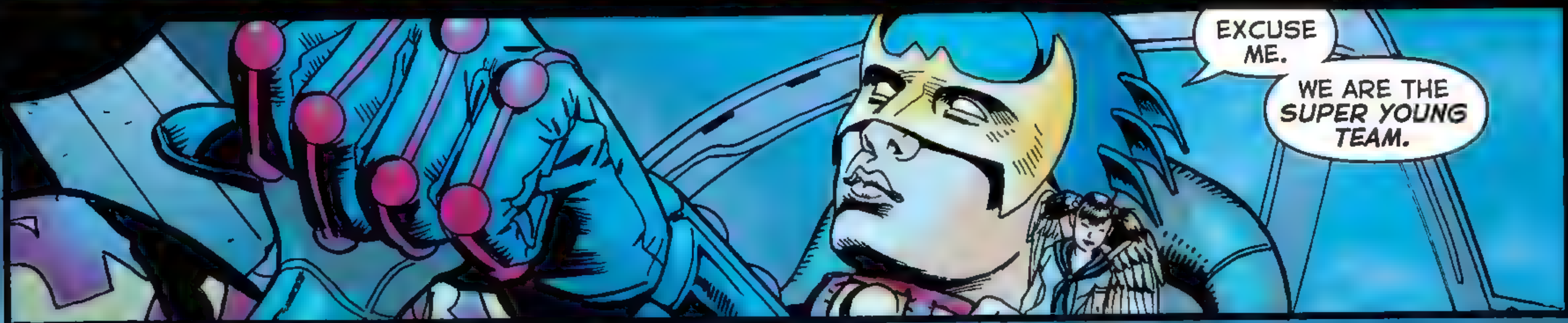
SUPERBAT... WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF...

WE NEED TO GET OFF THIS RUNWAY AND LOCATE THE AUTHORITIES!



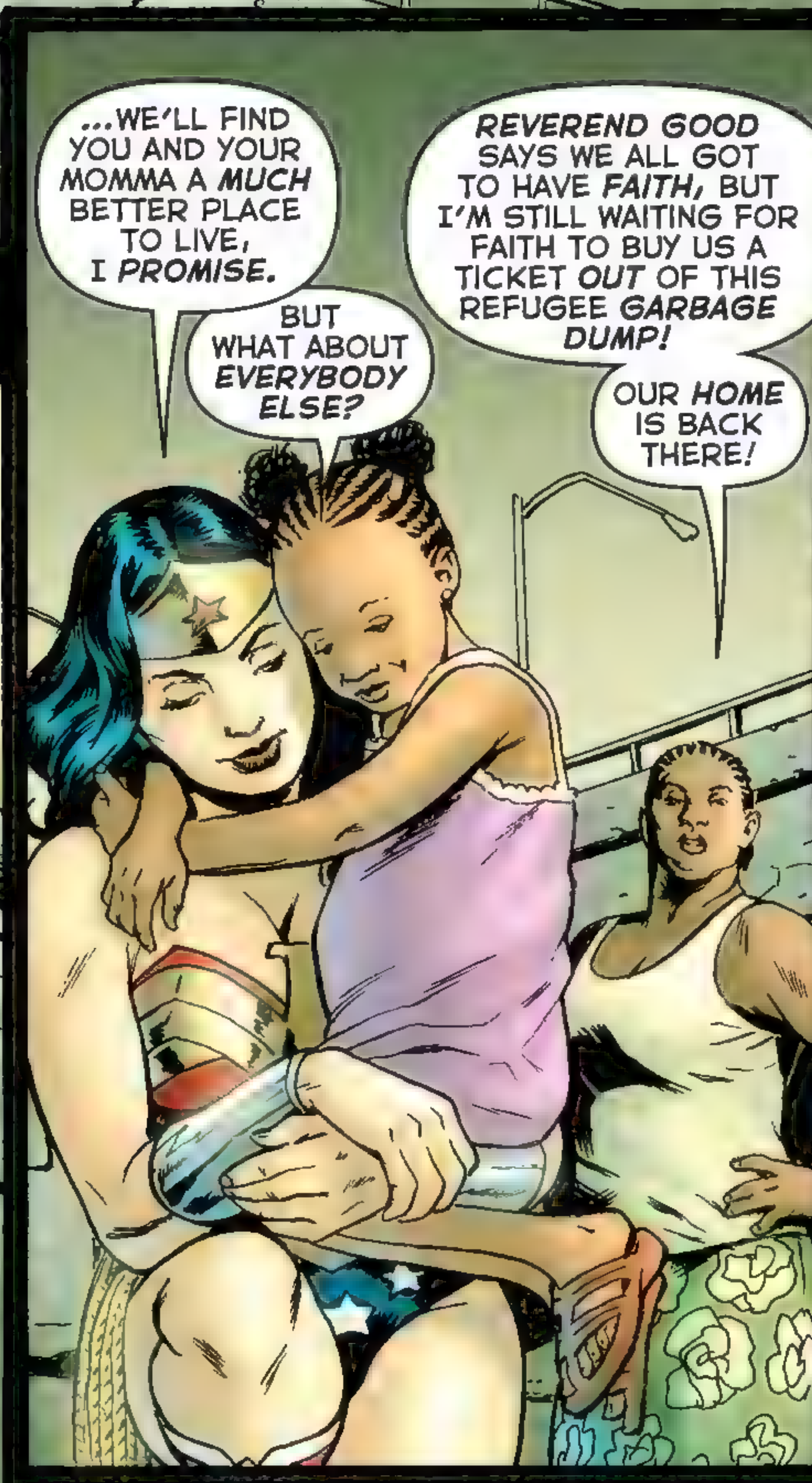
EXCUSE ME.

WE ARE THE SUPER YOUNG TEAM.



WE'RE THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR PRAYERS.





...WE'LL FIND YOU AND YOUR MOMMA A MUCH BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, I PROMISE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT EVERYBODY ELSE?

REVEREND GOOD SAYS WE ALL GOT TO HAVE FAITH, BUT I'M STILL WAITING FOR FAITH TO BUY US A TICKET OUT OF THIS REFUGEE GARBAGE DUMP!

OUR HOME IS BACK THERE!



YEAH, WELL, NOBODY'S GOING HOME IN BLÜDHAVEN FOR A LONG TIME.

OFFICIAL CLEANUP STILL ONLY STRETCHES ABOUT AS FAR AS THE WHALING MUSEUM OVER THERE ON RENFIELD.

AND THERE ARE ONLY 125 OF US "ATOMIC KNIGHTS" PATROLLING THE WALL.

NEVERTHELESS...

I'D LIKE TO GO IN A LITTLE WAY.

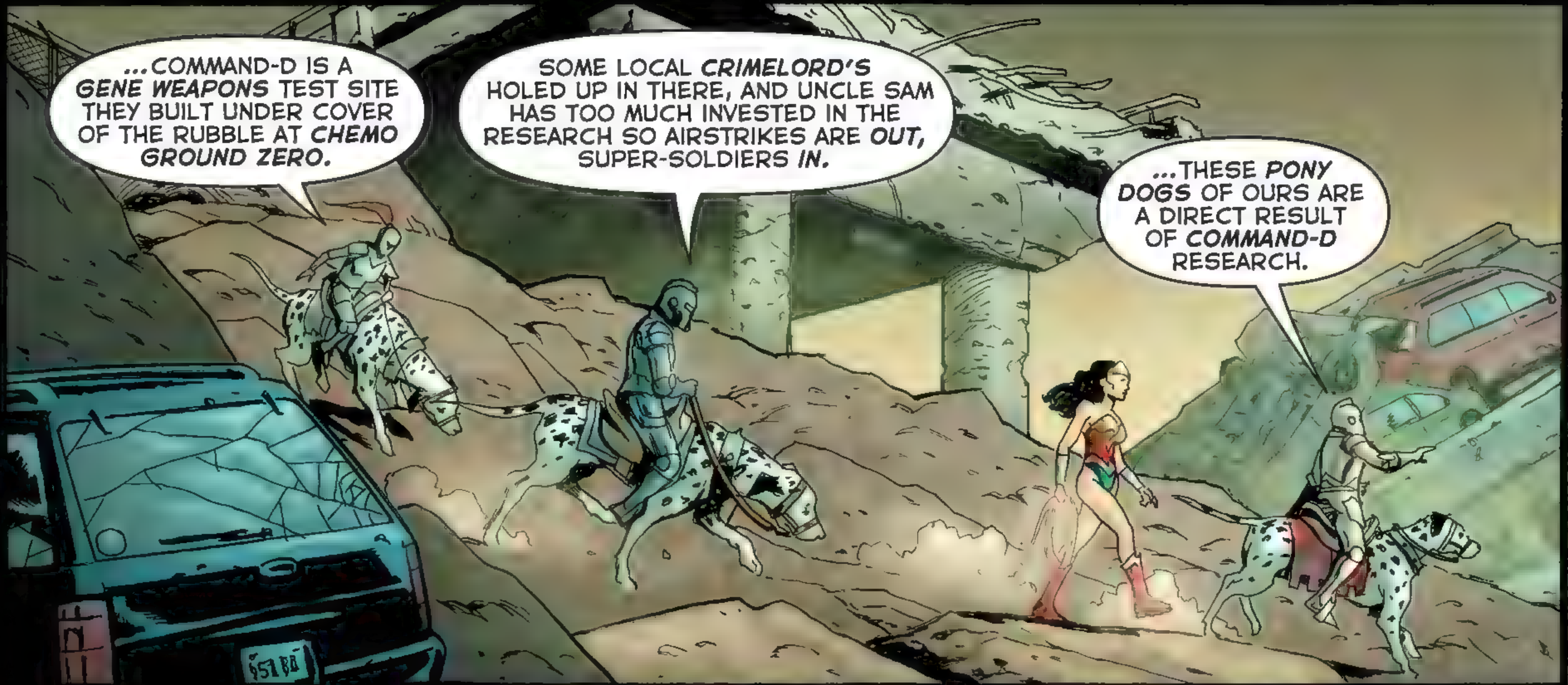


WONDER WOMAN, WE'RE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW TO ACCOMPANY YOU INTO CONTAMINATED TERRITORY.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE S.H.A.D.E. SUPERTROOPS TO GET BACK FROM RECONNAISSANCE?



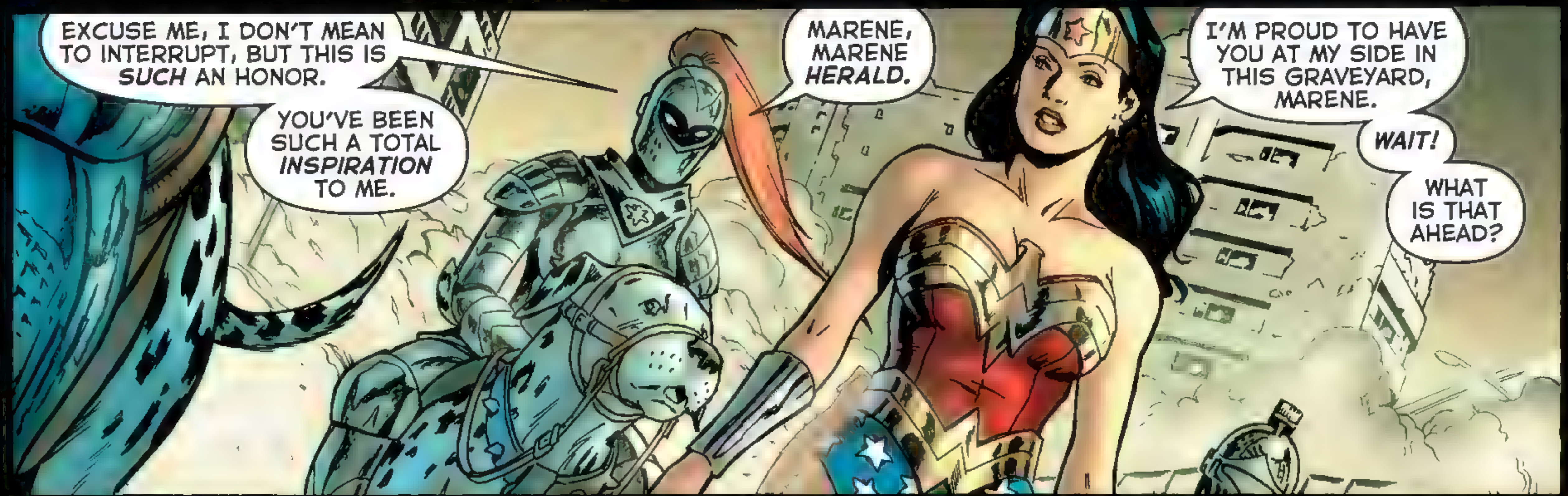
WE MAY NOT HAVE TIME FOR THAT, SERGEANT GRAYLE.



...COMMAND-D IS A
GENE WEAPONS TEST SITE
THEY BUILT UNDER COVER
OF THE RUBBLE AT CHERO
GROUND ZERO.

SOME LOCAL CRIMELORD'S
HOLED UP IN THERE, AND UNCLE SAM
HAS TOO MUCH INVESTED IN THE
RESEARCH SO AIRSTRIKES ARE OUT,
SUPER-SOLDIERS IN.

...THESE PONY
DOGS OF OURS ARE
A DIRECT RESULT
OF COMMAND-D
RESEARCH.



EXCUSE ME, I DON'T MEAN
TO INTERRUPT, BUT THIS IS
SUCH AN HONOR.

YOU'VE BEEN
SUCH A TOTAL
INSPIRATION
TO ME.

MARENE,
MARENE
HERALD.

I'M PROUD TO HAVE
YOU AT MY SIDE IN
THIS GRAVEYARD,
MARENE.

WAIT!

WHAT
IS THAT
AHEAD?



ε@%ε!
YOU EVER
SEEN A MAN
TURNED
INSIDE
OUT?

YES, I HAVE,
UNFORTUNATELY.

WHAT
HAPPENED?



S.H.A.D.E.
OPERATIVES.

SUPERHUMAN
ADVANCED
DEFENSE
EXECUTIVE.

THIS GUY
SAID HIS NAME WAS
REPLIKA... I THINK
THEY'RE ALL HIM...

BACK UP.

SOMEONE'S
COMING.



I DID IT.
IT WAS BAD
ME.

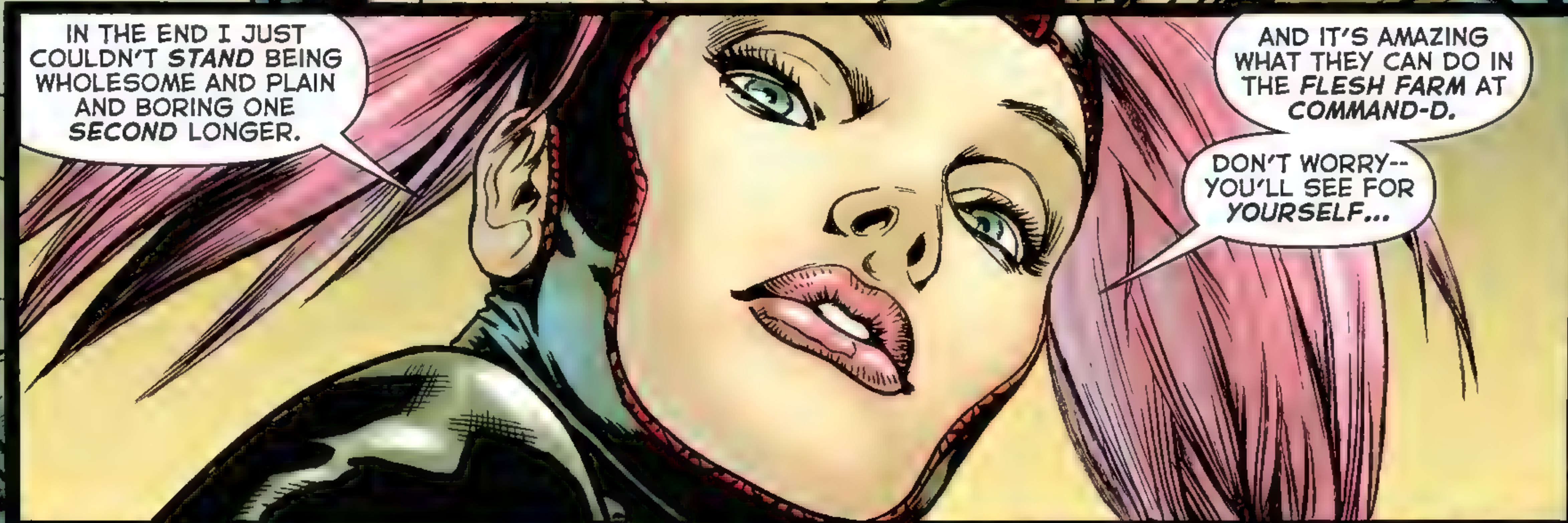
giggles

Um,
HEY, PRETTY
PRINCESS DIANA!
GUESS WHAT?

MARY
MARVEL?

MARY, I HEARD
THERE HAD BEEN
TROUBLE...

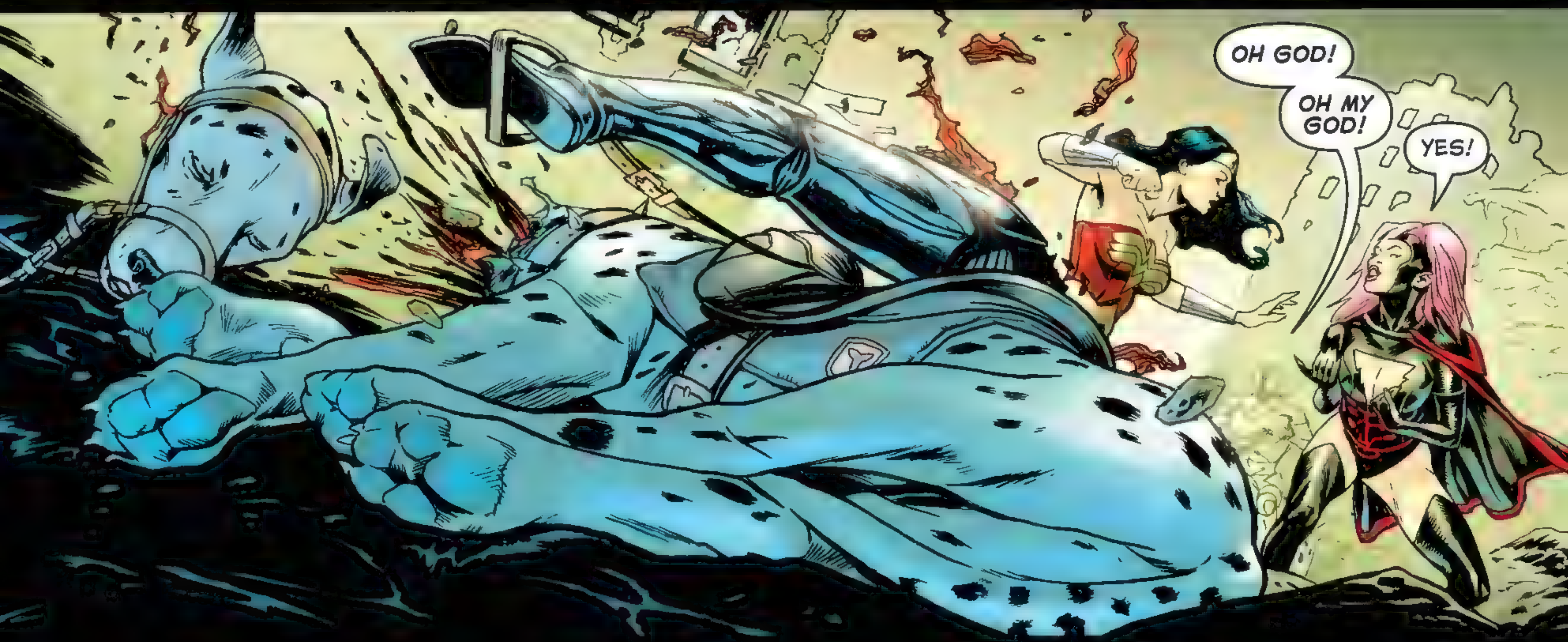
YOU LOOK
DIFFERENT...

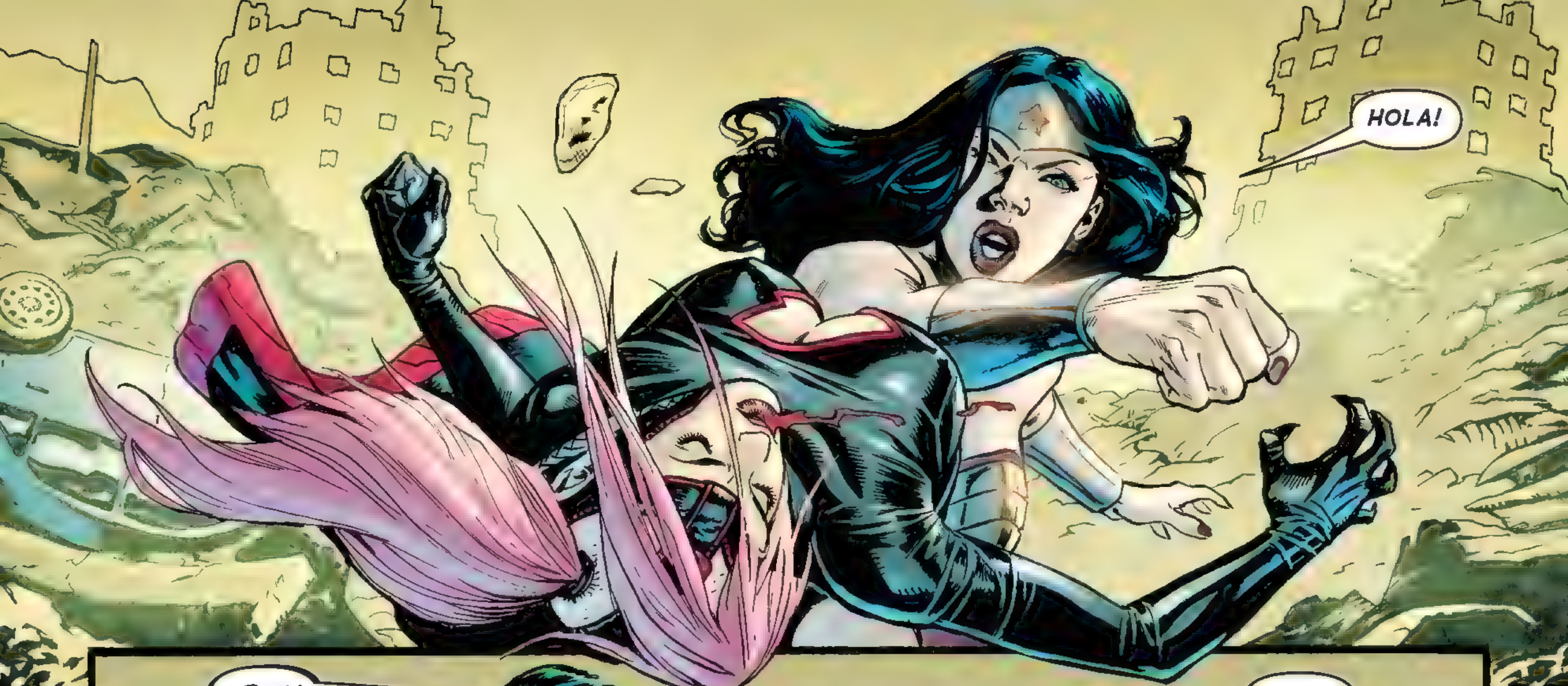


IN THE END I JUST
COULDN'T STAND BEING
WHOLESOME AND PLAIN
AND BORING ONE
SECOND LONGER.

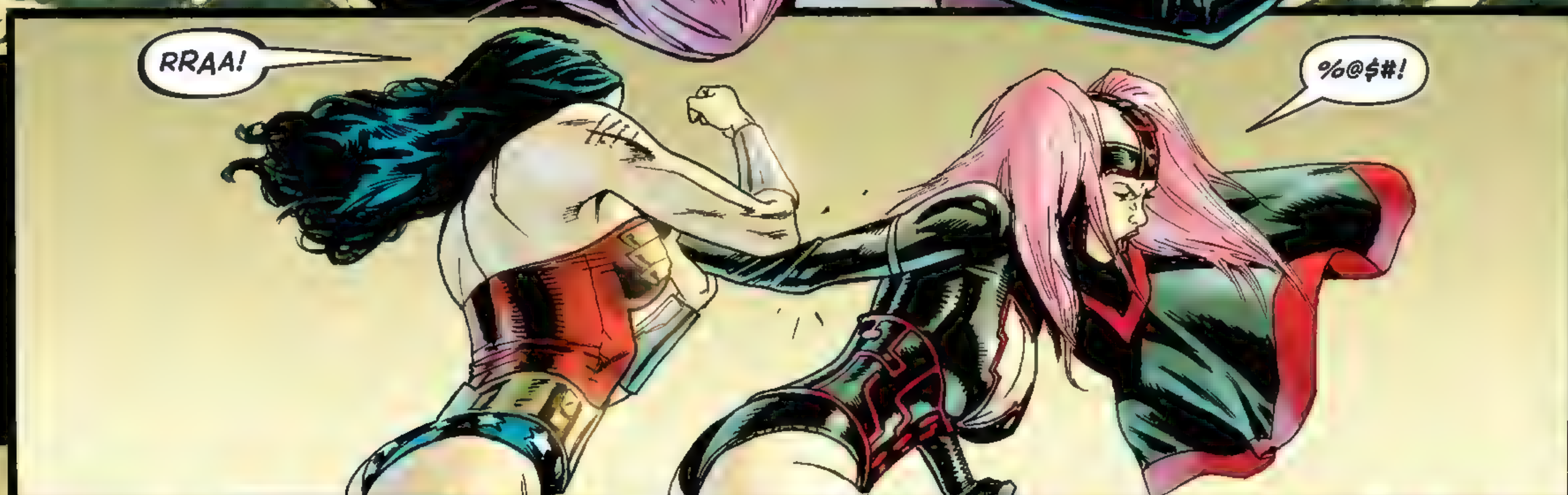
AND IT'S AMAZING
WHAT THEY CAN DO IN
THE FLESH FARM AT
COMMAND-D.

DON'T WORRY--
YOU'LL SEE FOR
YOURSELF...





HOLA!



RRAA!

%@\$#!

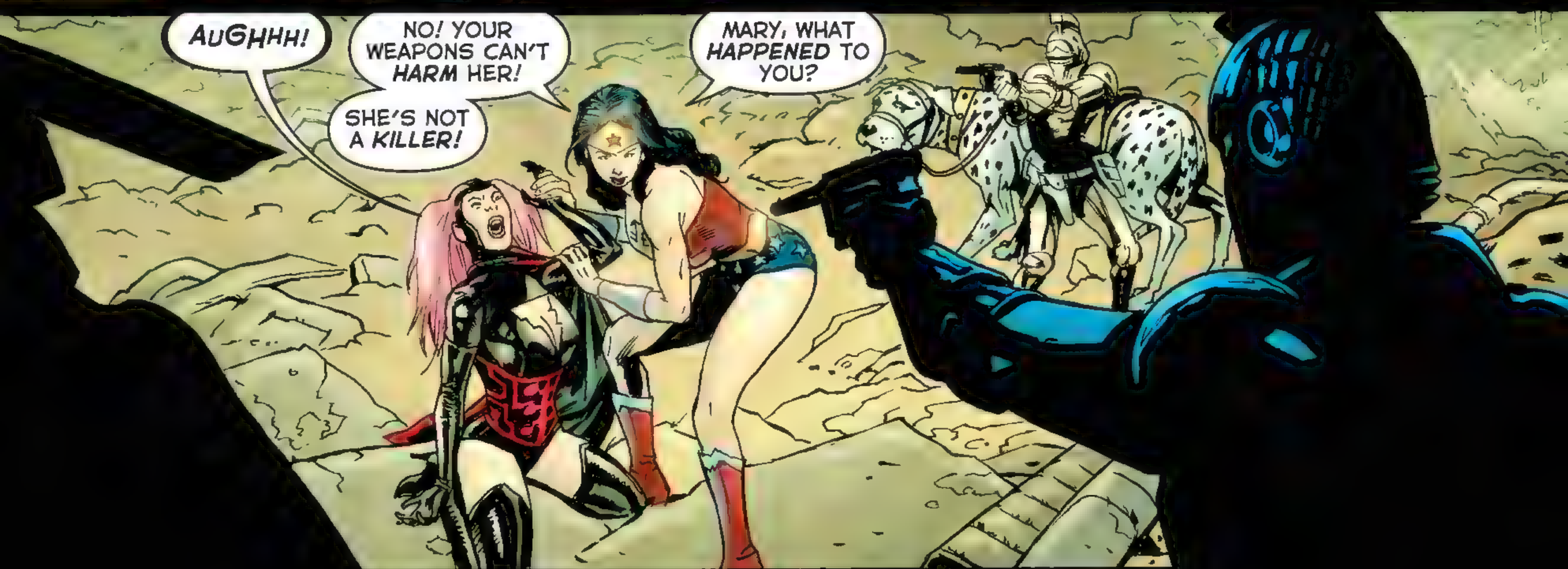


HTT!

MARENE'S DEAD!

SHE
KILLED MY
SISTER!

KK!

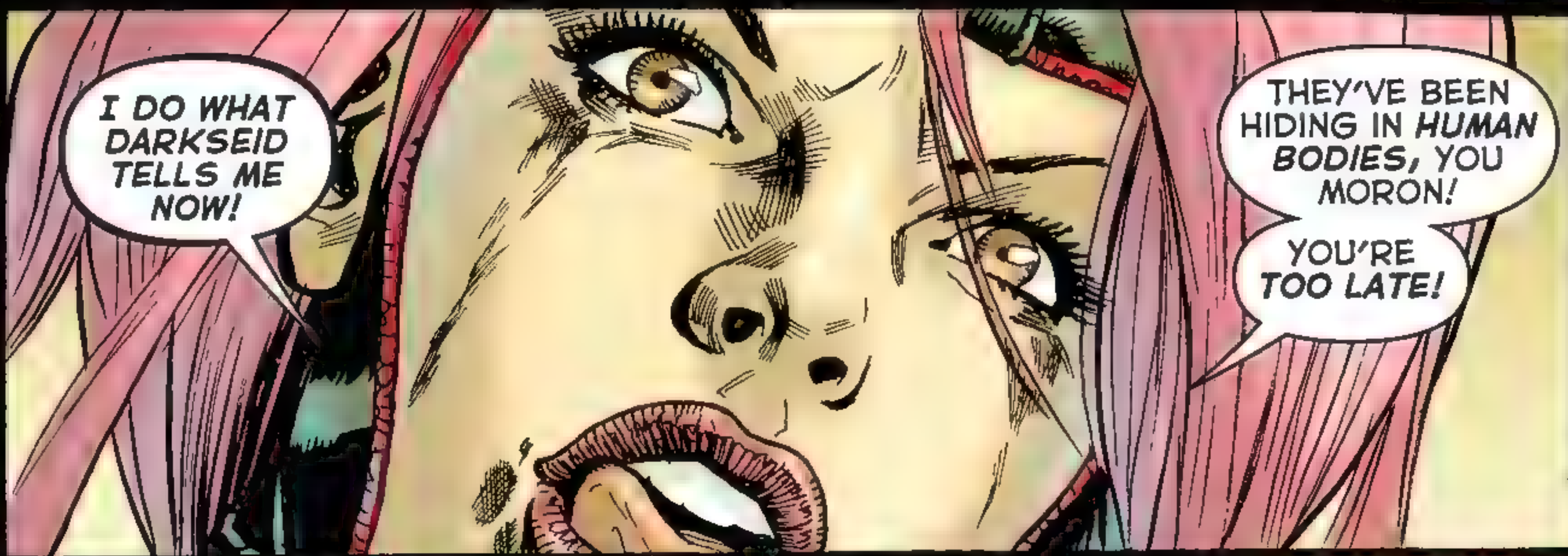


AUGHHH!

NO! YOUR
WEAPONS CAN'T
HARM HER!

SHE'S NOT
A KILLER!

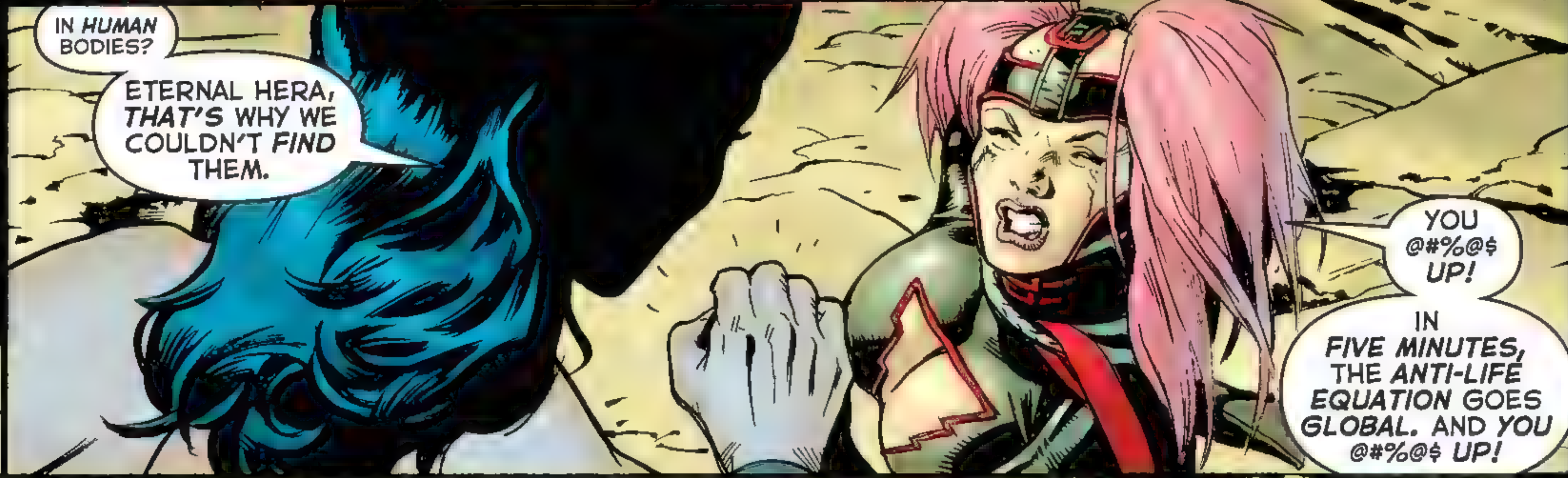
MARY, WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOU?



I DO WHAT
DARKSEID
TELLS ME
NOW!

THEY'VE BEEN
HIDING IN HUMAN
BODIES, YOU
MORON!

YOU'RE
TOO LATE!

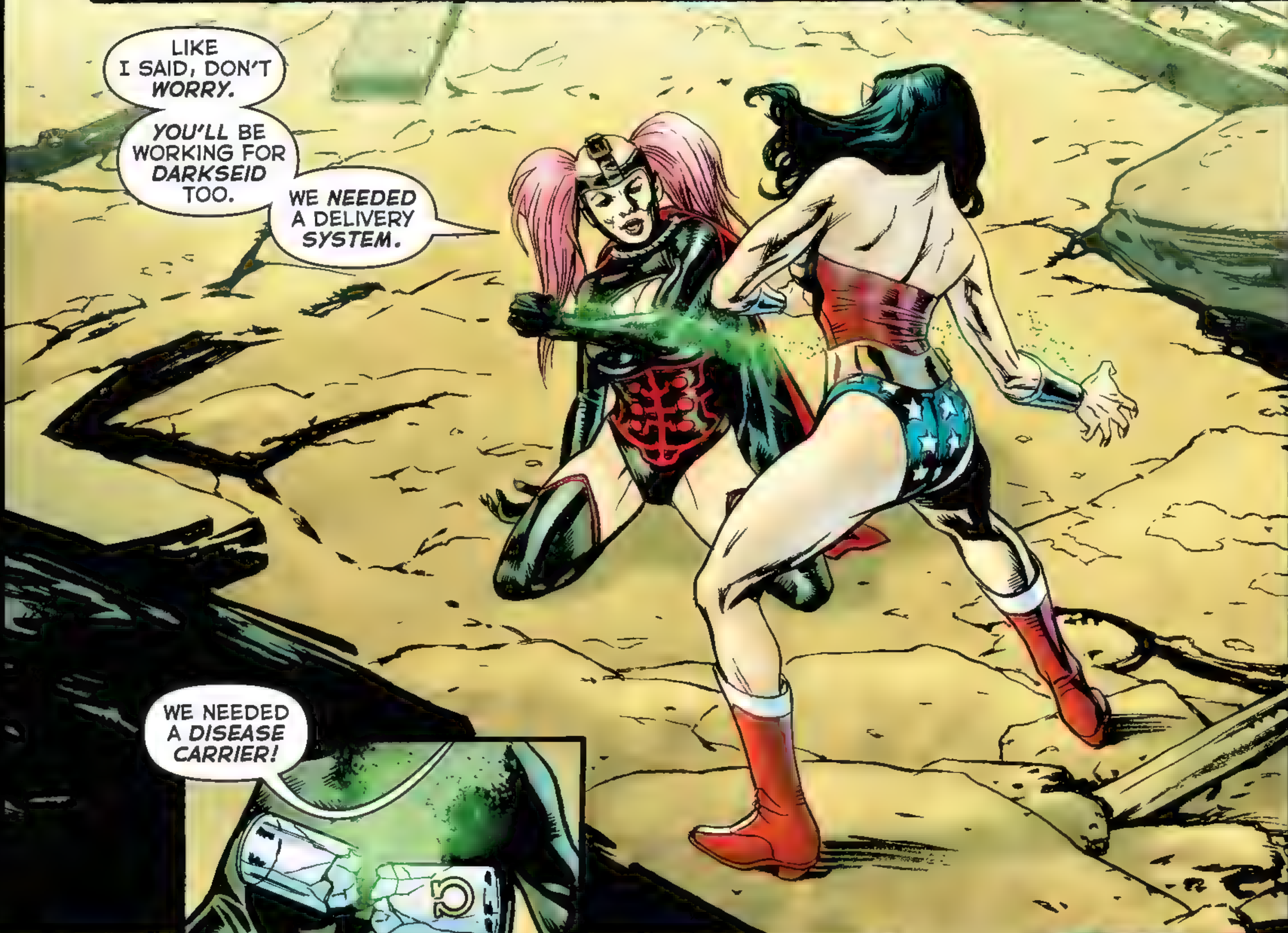


IN HUMAN
BODIES?

ETERNAL HERA,
THAT'S WHY WE
COULDN'T FIND
THEM.

YOU
@#%@\$
UP!

IN
FIVE MINUTES,
THE ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION GOES
GLOBAL. AND YOU
@#%@\$ UP!

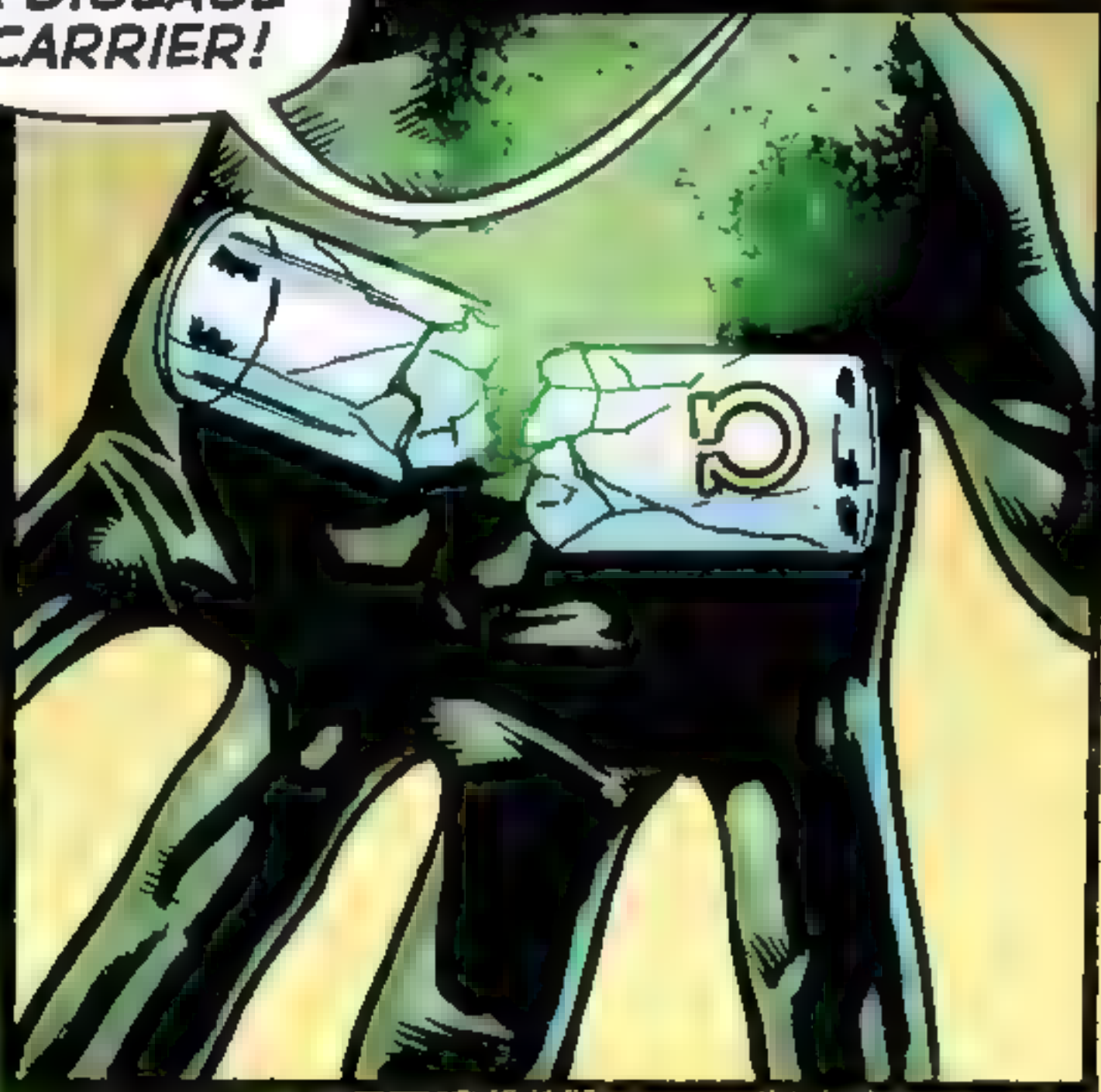


LIKE
I SAID, DON'T
WORRY.

YOU'LL BE
WORKING FOR
DARKSEID
TOO.

WE NEEDED
A DELIVERY
SYSTEM.

WE NEEDED
A DISEASE
CARRIER!



THAT'S
YOU, WONDER
WOMAN.

AUGH!!



I, MOKKARI
OF APOKOLIPS,
IN DARKSEID'S
NAME...

NOW
END THE
WORLD.



ORACLE.

THIS IS
MR. TERRIFIC
AT THE
CASTLE.

CAN
YOU CHECK
SOMETHING?



WAY
AHEAD OF
YOU.

SOMETHING
REALLY WEIRD IS
HAPPENING.

Download

15% complete



MICHAEL...
CAN I CALL YOU
MICHAEL?...

IT LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE IN BLÜDHAVEN
JUST SENT AN E-MAIL TO
EVERY SINGLE ADDRESS
ON THE PLANET
EARTH.

THIS ISN'T
POSSIBLE.



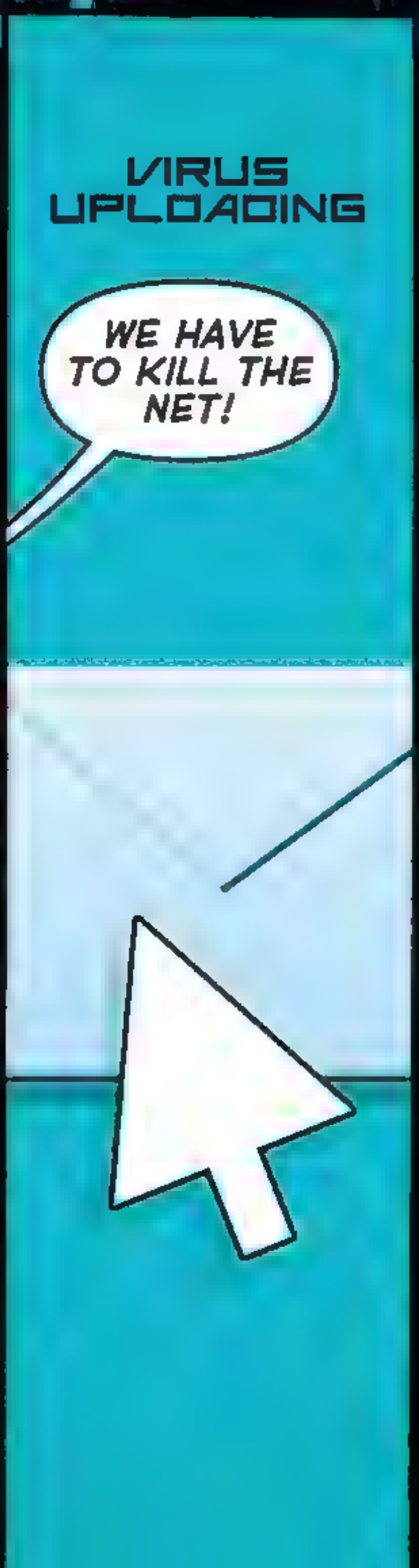
OH
%\$@%!

IT'S
OPENING
ITSELF!



MICHAEL,
ALERT THE TROOPS
WHILE I TRY TO DO
SOMETHING FROM
HERE!

WE HAVE
TO SHUT IT
DOWN!



VIRUS
UPLOADING

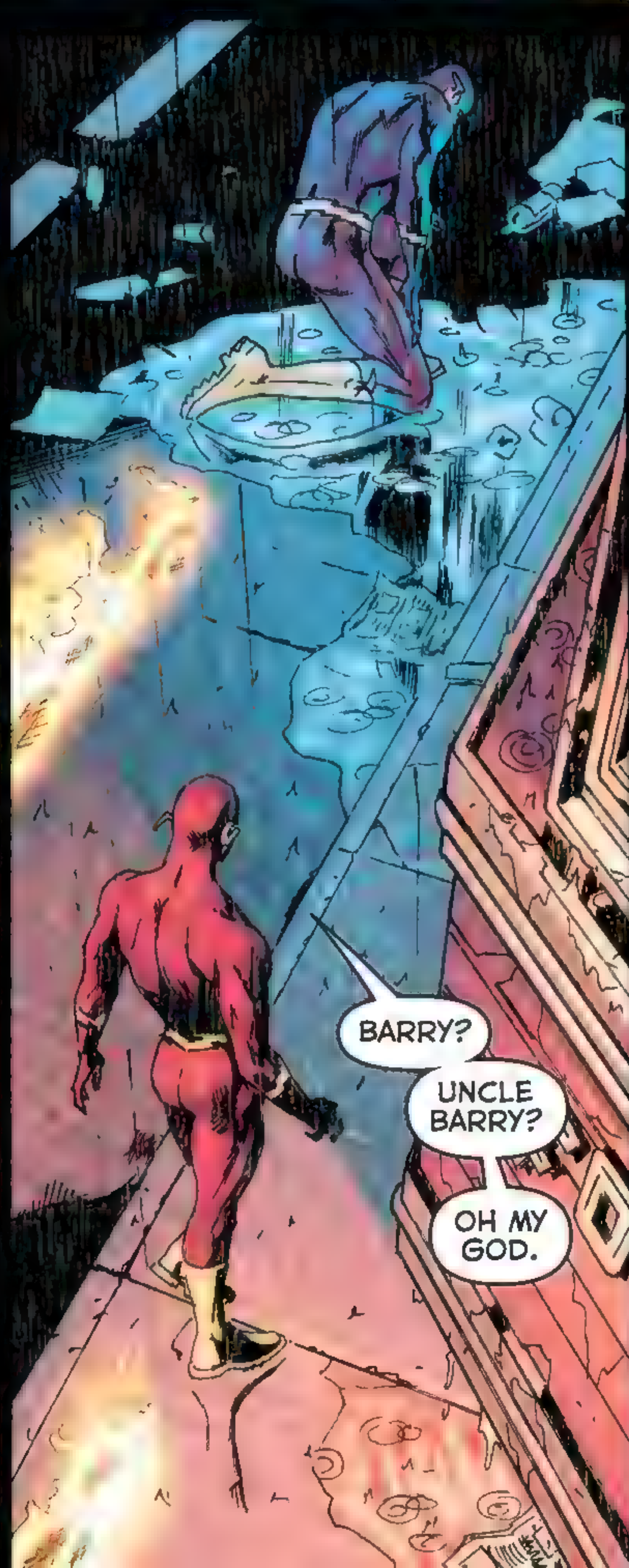
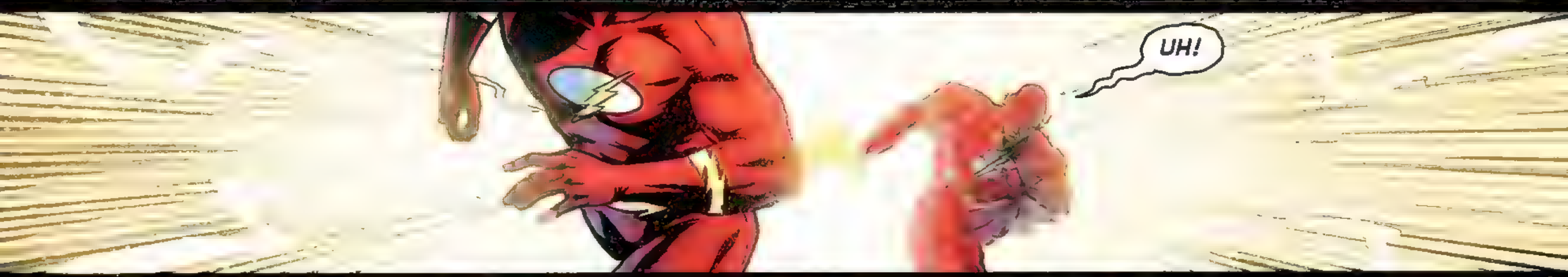
WE HAVE
TO KILL THE
NET!



PULL THE
PLUGS!

OH GOD.

PULL THE
PLUGS BEFORE
IT--!





SUPERHEROES.
KILL.

NEED QUICK
GET OUT NOW
ONE CALL
WE CAN HELP
YOU
JUST RING



S U P E R M A N
B E Y O N D
P A R T 1

GRANT MORRISON
writer

DOUG MAHNKE
penciller

**CHRISTIAN ALAMY, RODNEY RAMOS,
TOM NGUYEN, WALDEN WONG & DOUG MAHNKE**
inkers

DAVID BARON
colorist

STEVE WANDS
letterer

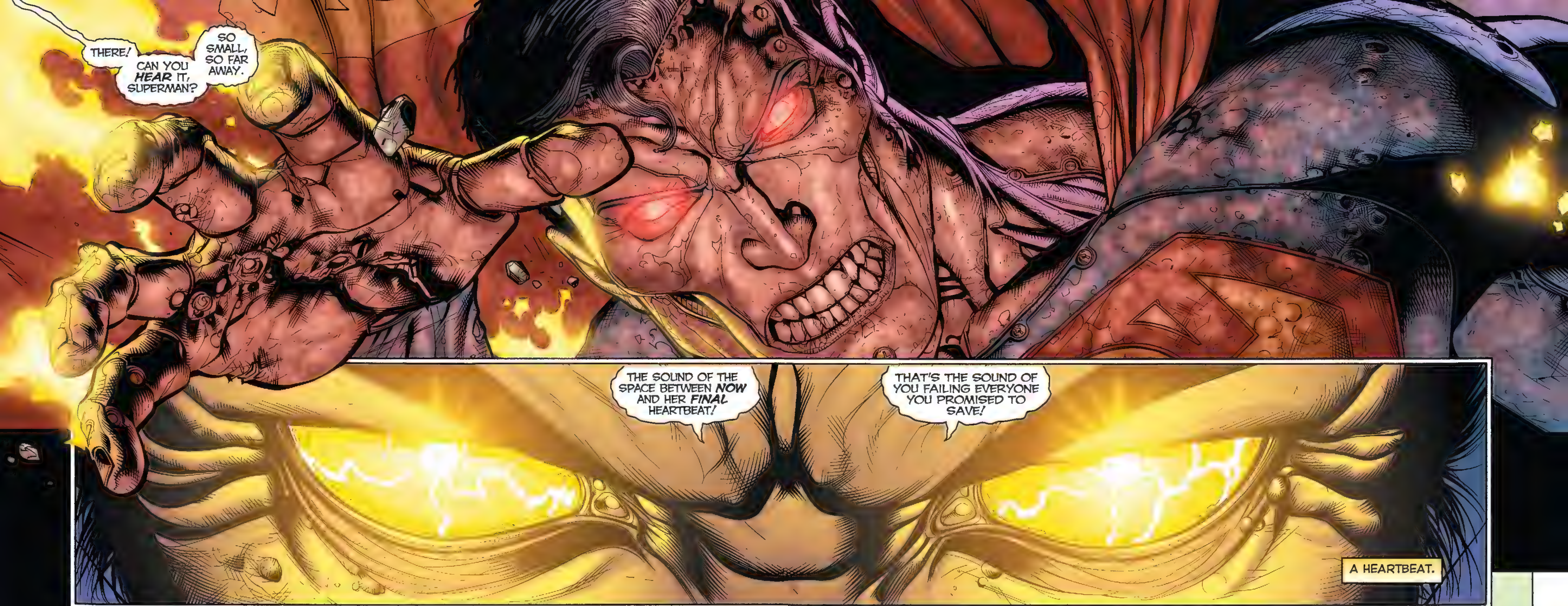
J.H. WILLIAMS III
cover artist

YOUR **COSMIC**
ARMOR IS NO MATCH
FOR MY ETERNAL
POWER!

TELL ME,
SUPERMAN...

WHAT SHALL WE
ENGRAVE UPON YOUR
TOMBSTONE?





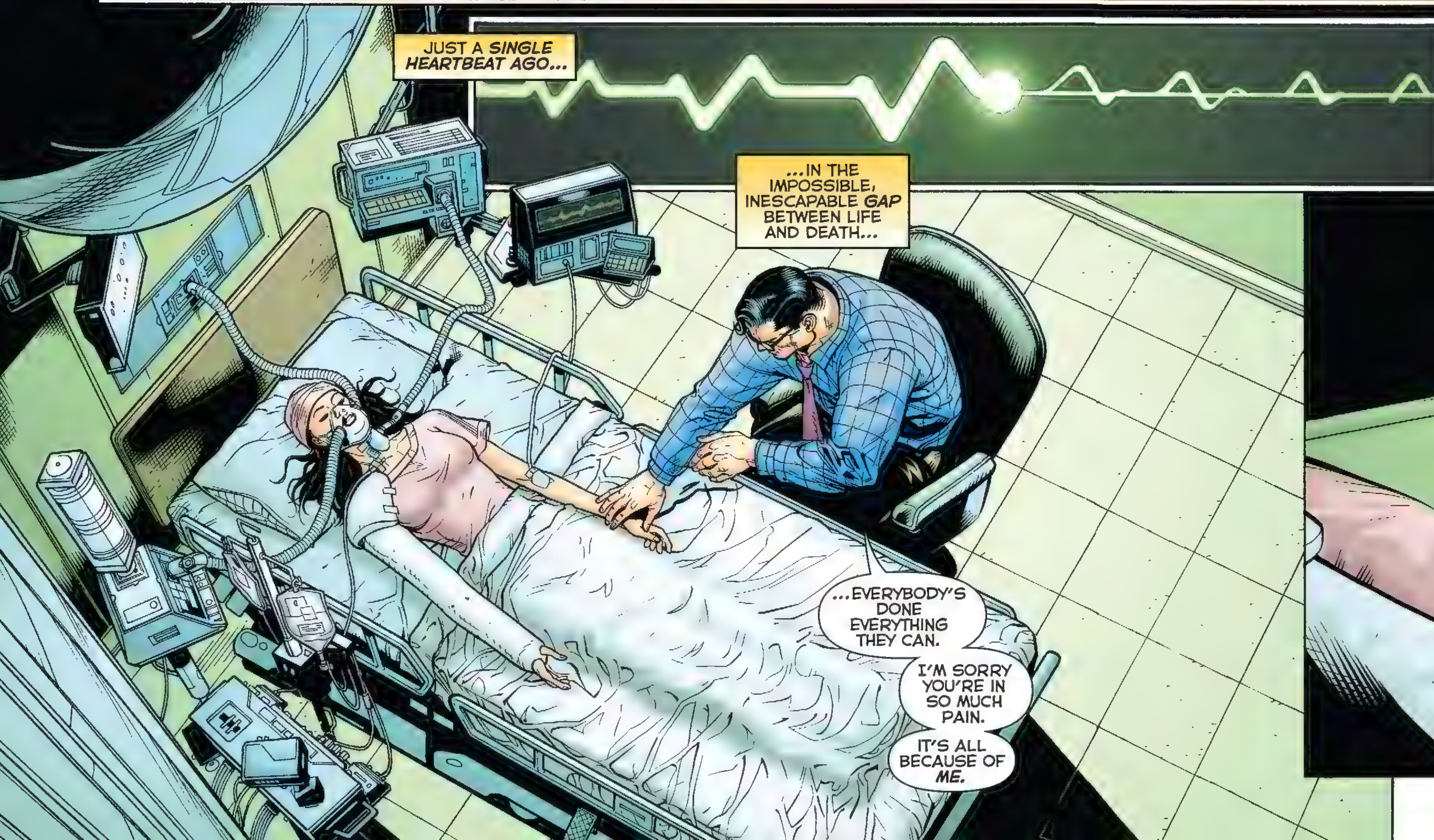
THERE!
CAN YOU
HEAR IT,
SUPERMAN?

SO
SMALL,
SO FAR
AWAY.

THE SOUND OF THE
SPACE BETWEEN NOW
AND HER FINAL
HEARTBEAT!

THAT'S THE SOUND OF
YOU FAILING EVERYONE
YOU PROMISED TO
SAVE!

A HEARTBEAT.



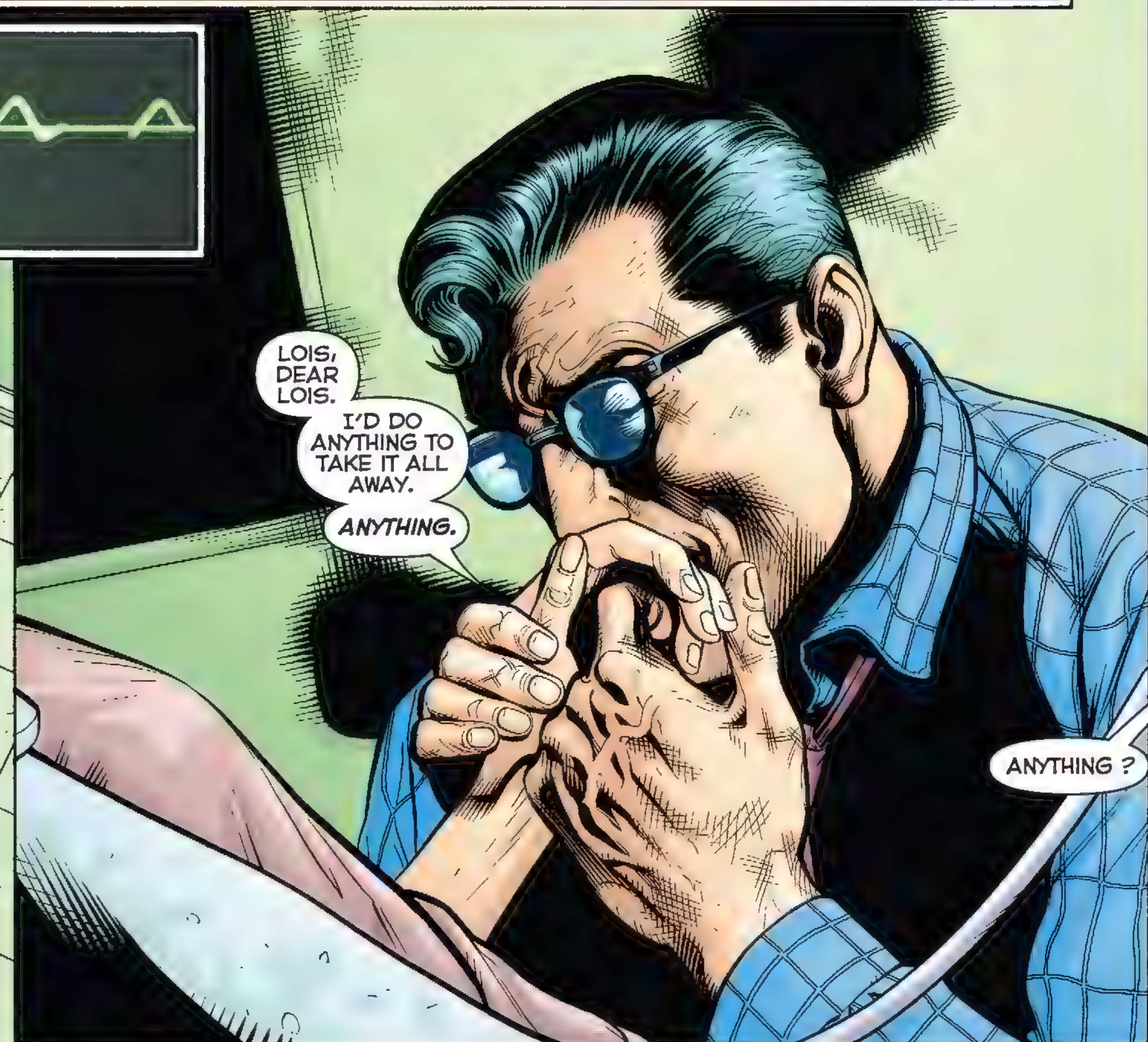
JUST A SINGLE
HEARTBEAT AGO...

...IN THE
IMPOSSIBLE,
INESCAPABLE GAP
BETWEEN LIFE
AND DEATH...

...EVERYBODY'S
DONE
EVERYTHING
THEY CAN.

I'M SORRY
YOU'RE IN
SO MUCH
PAIN.

IT'S ALL
BECAUSE OF
ME.



LOIS,
DEAR
LOIS.

I'D DO
ANYTHING TO
TAKE IT ALL
AWAY.

ANYTHING.

ANYTHING?



CLARK KENT,
I KNOW YOU'RE
SECRETLY
SUPERMAN!

FOR ONE TERRIBLE
MOMENT IT SEEMS AS
THOUGH LOIS HAS
STOPPED *BREATHING*.

WHAT?

BUT IT'S
TIME.

*TIME HAS
STOPPED.*

CAUGHT ON A RAGGED
INBREATH, HER LIFE
HAS HIT *PAUSE*.

OUTSIDE, ...
400 MILLION
RAINDROPS
HANG IN
PERFECT
SUSPENSION.

THE WHOLE PERFECT
STRUCTURE OF
EXISTENCE IS RINGING
LIKE A *WINE GLASS*.

LOIS.

IF I
DON'T
STAY WITH
MY WIFE,
SHE'LL
DIE.

MY *INFRA-
RED* MASSAGE
IS ALL THAT'S
KEEPING HER HEART
ALIVE AFTER THE
SHRAPNEL WAS
REMOVED.

NOT EVEN
PURPLE RAY
TECHNOLOGY
CAN HELP.

I KNOW
EVERYTHING
ABOUT YOU.

I OFFER YOU
*ONE ULTIMATE
CHANCE* TO SAVE
HER!

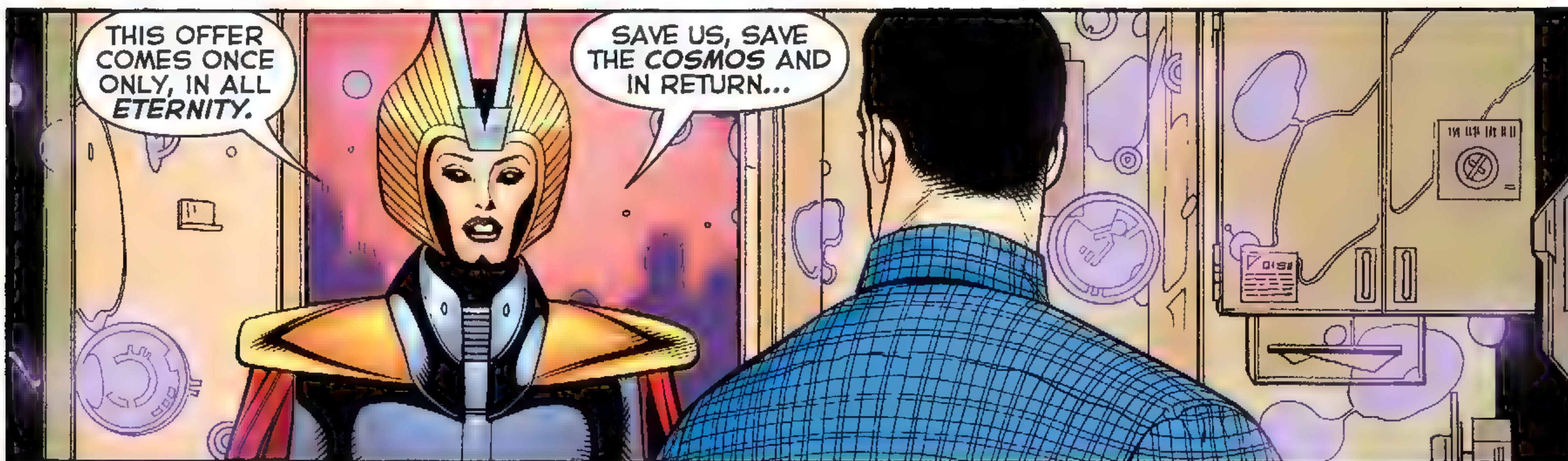
BUT WE MUST
LEAVE THIS WORLD
NOW BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!

EACH REFLECTING THE OTHER, AND
THE CITY AND *EVERYTHING* BEYOND.

IN THE *FINAL
MOMENTS* OF A
CIVILIZATION'S
CATASTROPHIC
DECLINE, I
EMBARKED UPON
MY *DESPERATE
MISSION*!

TO RECRUIT
THE GREATEST
SUPER-CHAMPIONS
OF THE
MULTIVERSE!

FOR IF OUR
WORLD DIES, ALL
EXISTENCE DIES
WITH US!



THIS OFFER COMES ONCE ONLY, IN ALL ETERNITY.

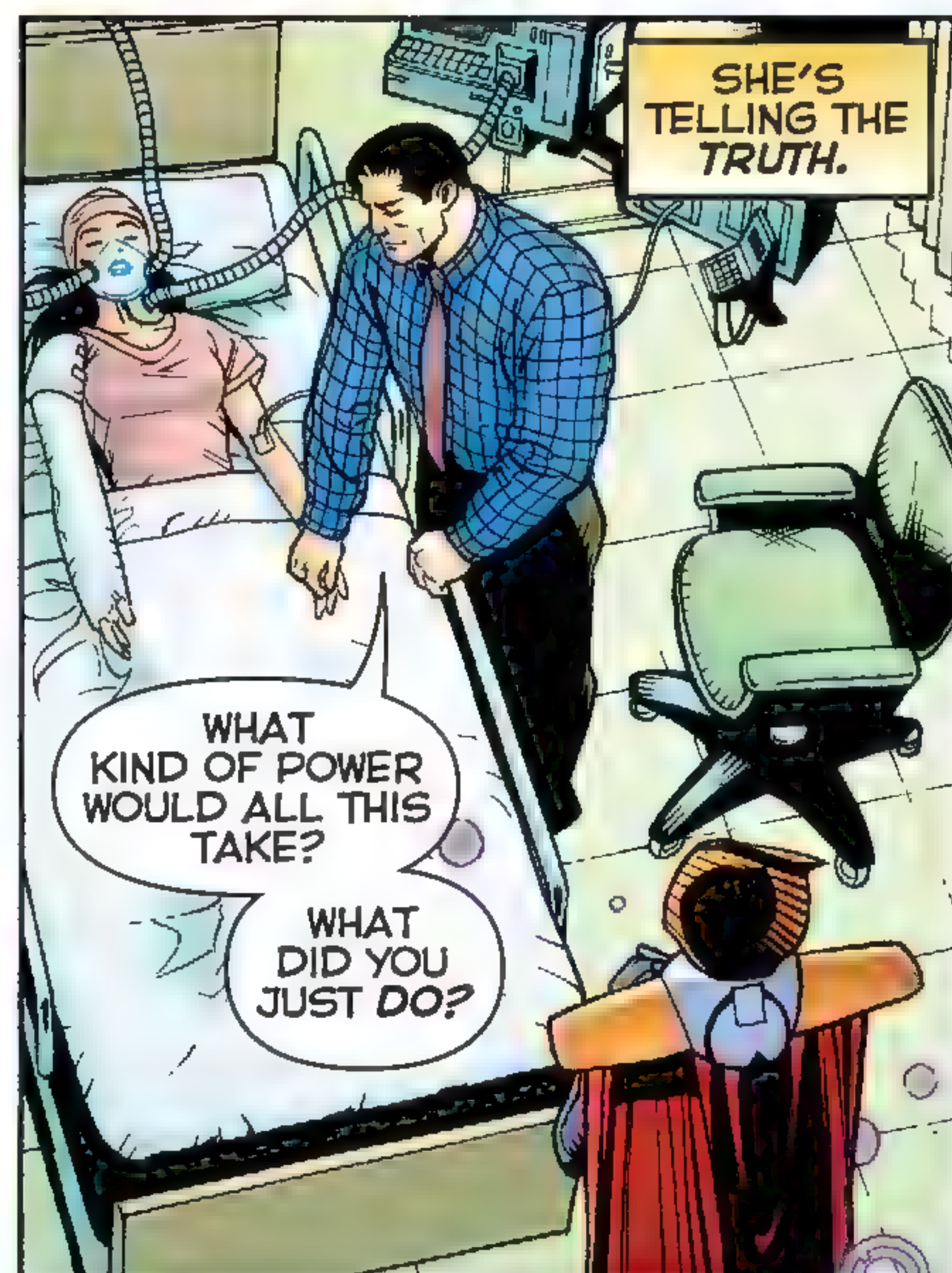
SAVE US, SAVE THE COSMOS AND IN RETURN...



IF YOU WOULD TRULY DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HER.

YOU WILL BE REWARDED WITH THE UNIVERSAL MEDICINE, THE SECRET SUBSTANCE OF LIFE ITSELF!

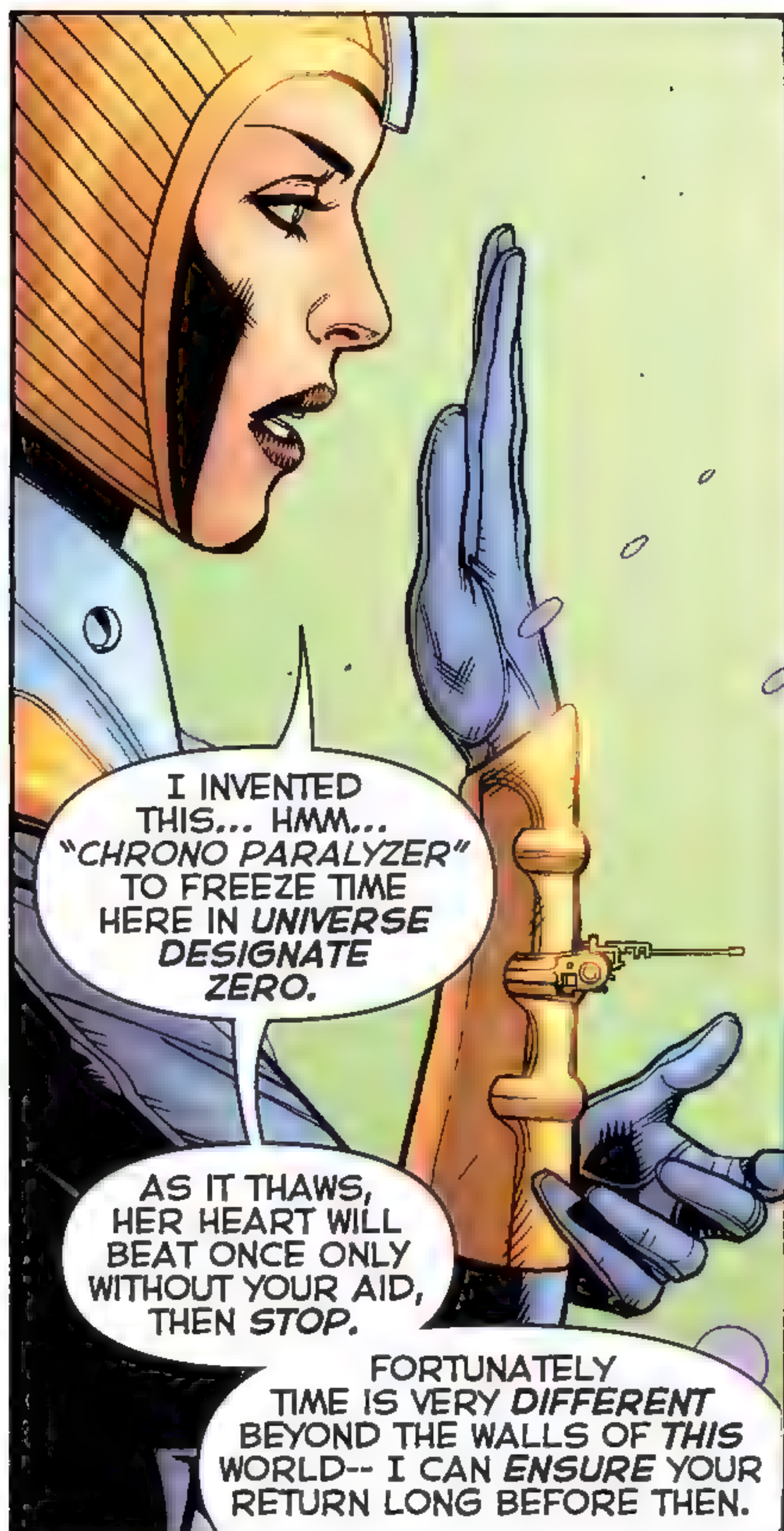
EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT BODY LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION CONFIRMS WHAT SHE'S SAYING...



SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

WHAT KIND OF POWER WOULD ALL THIS TAKE?

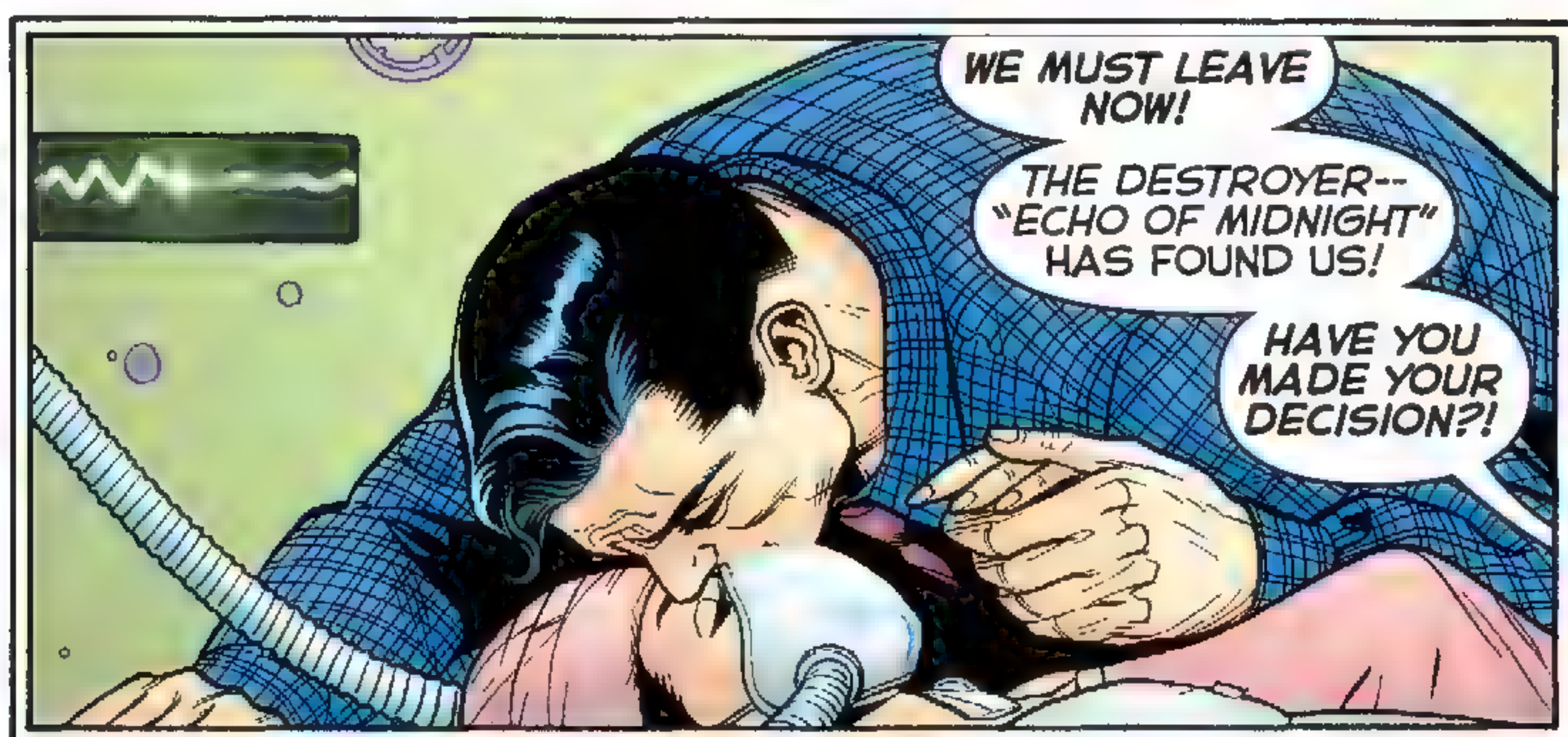
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?



I INVENTED THIS... HMM... "CHRONO PARALYZER" TO FREEZE TIME HERE IN UNIVERSE DESIGNATE ZERO.

AS IT THAWS, HER HEART WILL BEAT ONCE ONLY WITHOUT YOUR AID, THEN STOP.

FORTUNATELY TIME IS VERY DIFFERENT BEYOND THE WALLS OF THIS WORLD-- I CAN ENSURE YOUR RETURN LONG BEFORE THEN.

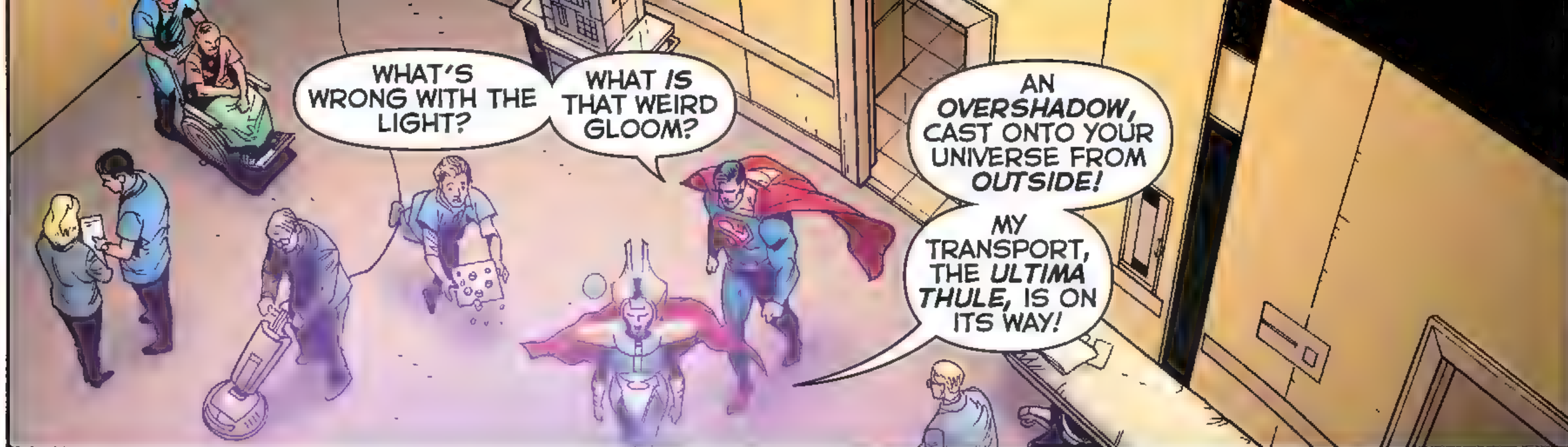


WE MUST LEAVE NOW!

THE DESTROYER-- "ECHO OF MIDNIGHT" HAS FOUND US!

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION?!



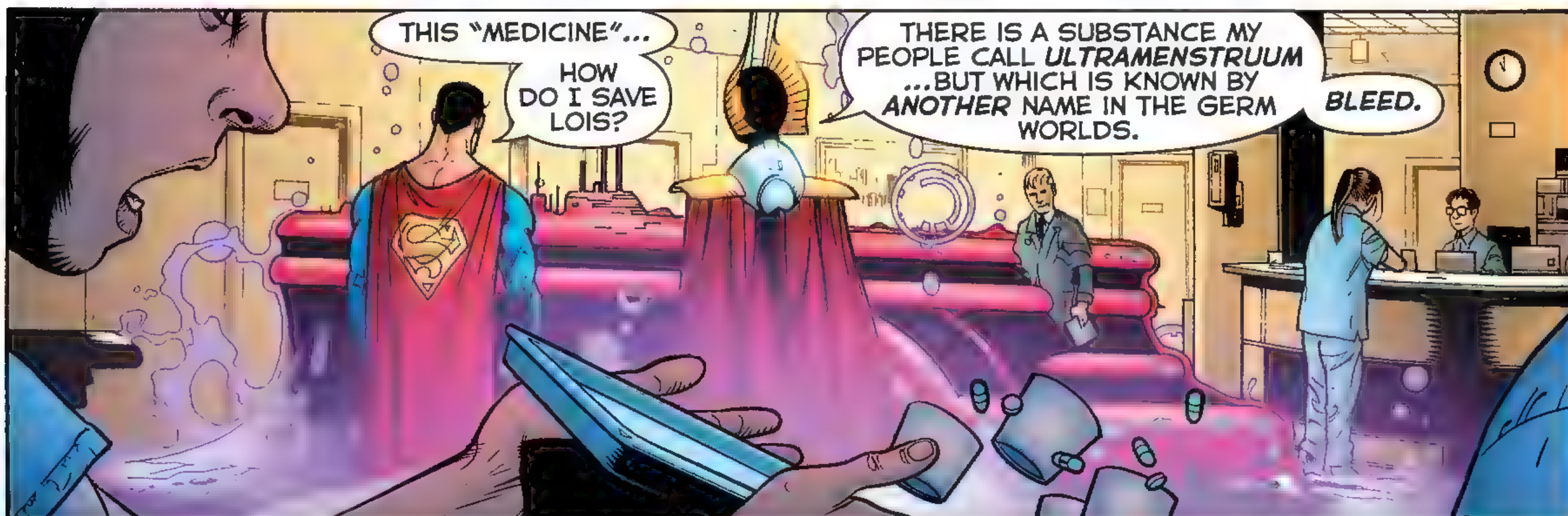


WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE LIGHT?

WHAT IS THAT WEIRD GLOOM?

AN OVERSHADOW, CAST ONTO YOUR UNIVERSE FROM OUTSIDE!

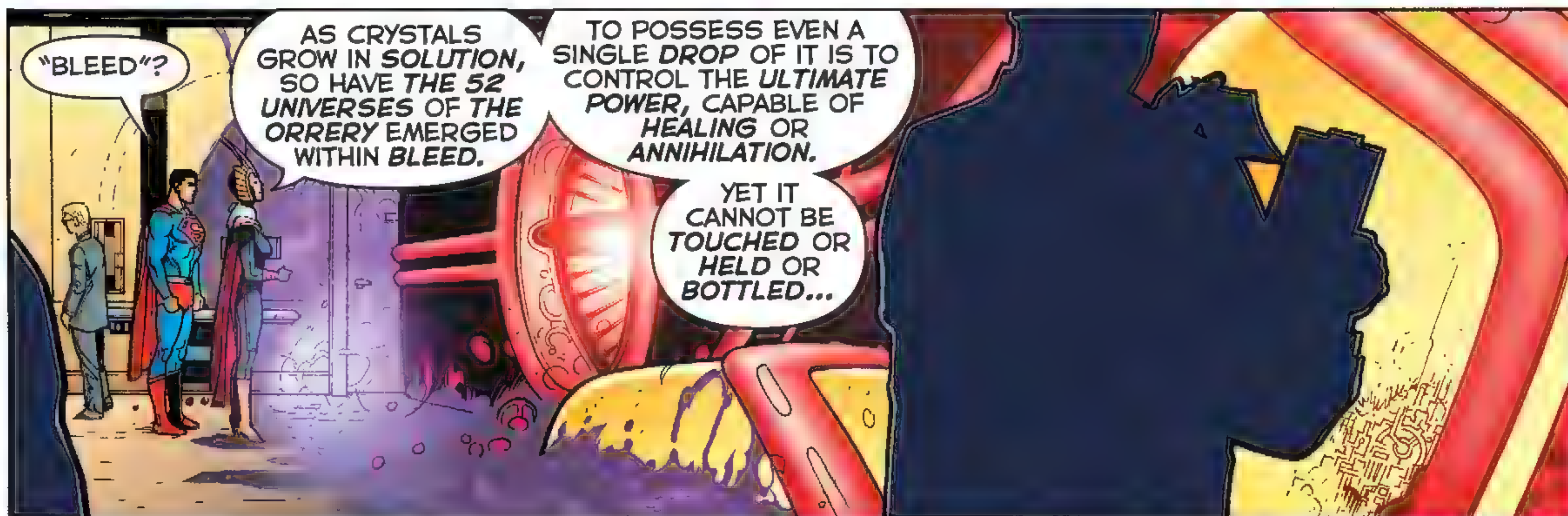
MY TRANSPORT, THE ULTIMA THULE, IS ON ITS WAY!



THIS "MEDICINE"... HOW DO I SAVE LOIS?

THERE IS A SUBSTANCE MY PEOPLE CALL ULTRAMENSTRUUM ...BUT WHICH IS KNOWN BY ANOTHER NAME IN THE GERM WORLDS.

BLEED.



"BLEED"?

AS CRYSTALS GROW IN SOLUTION, SO HAVE THE 52 UNIVERSES OF THE ORRERY EMERGED WITHIN BLEED.

TO POSSESS EVEN A SINGLE DROP OF IT IS TO CONTROL THE ULTIMATE POWER, CAPABLE OF HEALING OR ANNIHILATION.

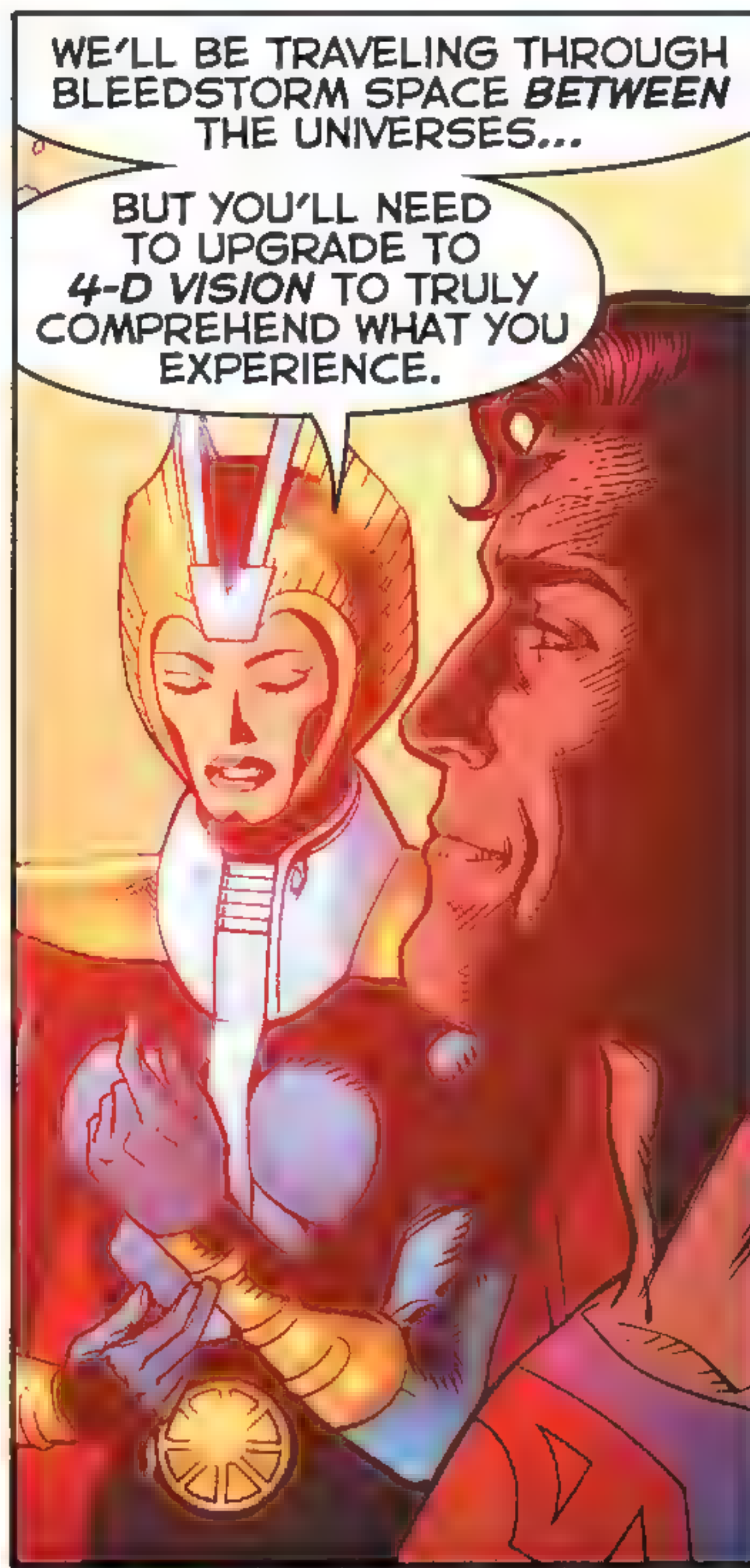
YET IT CANNOT BE TOUCHED OR HELD OR BOTTLED...



EXCEPT BY US.

MY PEOPLE, MONITORS OF NIL.

MASTERS OF THE OVERVOID.



WE'LL BE TRAVELING THROUGH BLEEDSTORM SPACE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSES...

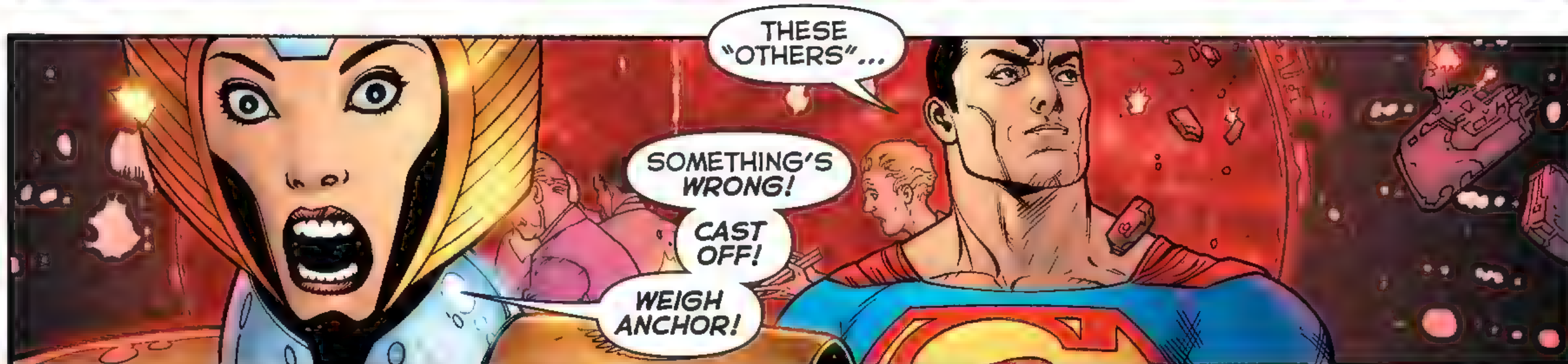
BUT YOU'LL NEED TO UPGRADE TO 4-D VISION TO TRULY COMPREHEND WHAT YOU EXPERIENCE.



4-D VISION?

WELL WITHIN YOUR SUPERIOR OPTICAL RANGE.

YOUR ABILITY TO SEE 4-D PERSPECTIVE WILL MOST LIKELY DEVELOP SPONTANEOUSLY WHEN REQUIRED, AS IT DID WITH THE OTHERS.



THESE "OTHERS"...

SOMETHING'S WRONG!

CAST OFF!

WEIGH ANCHOR!



WIR WERDEN VERLUSTE HINNEHMEN MÜSSEN!

DIESE MASCHINE WIRD GLEICH EXPLODIEREN!



ONLY THE SPEED OF MERCURY IS GETTING ME THROUGH THIS!

HOLY MOLEY!

WHAT A WAY TO FLY A SHIP.



...THE MULTIVERSE NEEDS NO DESIGNER... IT HAS A DISTINCTIVE EMERGENT STRUCTURE...NOT A MACHINE...MORE LIKE A...PLANT...OR A SYMPHONY COMPOSING ITSELF...



DOWN!

I'M ALREADY SEARCHING FOR THE SOURCE OF THE ATTACK FROM NOWHERE-- X-RAY VISION, TELESCOPIC VISION, RADIO VISION.

BUT SHE WAS RIGHT: THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROCESS WHAT I'M SEEING.



4-D VISION UPGRADE.

GREAT KRYPTON!

ARTERIES.



BETWEEN
UNIVERSES.



"EARTH-13
TO EARTH-6
CORRECT," I HEAR
THE MAN WITH
CHROME SKIN
MUTTER.

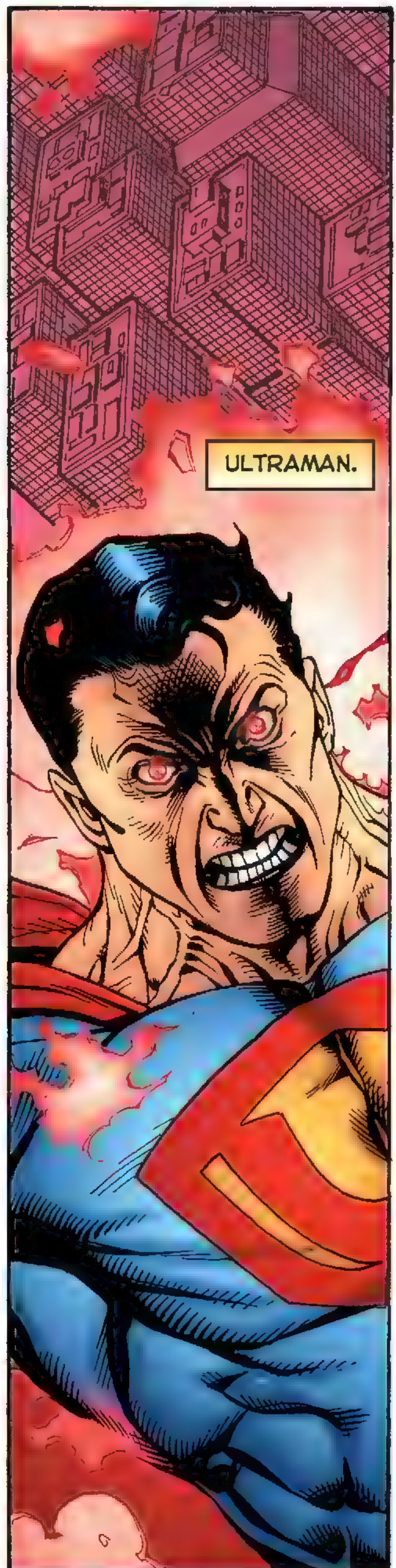
THE IMMENSE DEATH
RAY EYE OF THE THING
THAT'S CHASING US
BEGINS TO WEEP, AND
CRACKS.



SOMETHING IS
TRYING TO KILL
THE DESTROYER
"ECHO OF
MIDNIGHT."

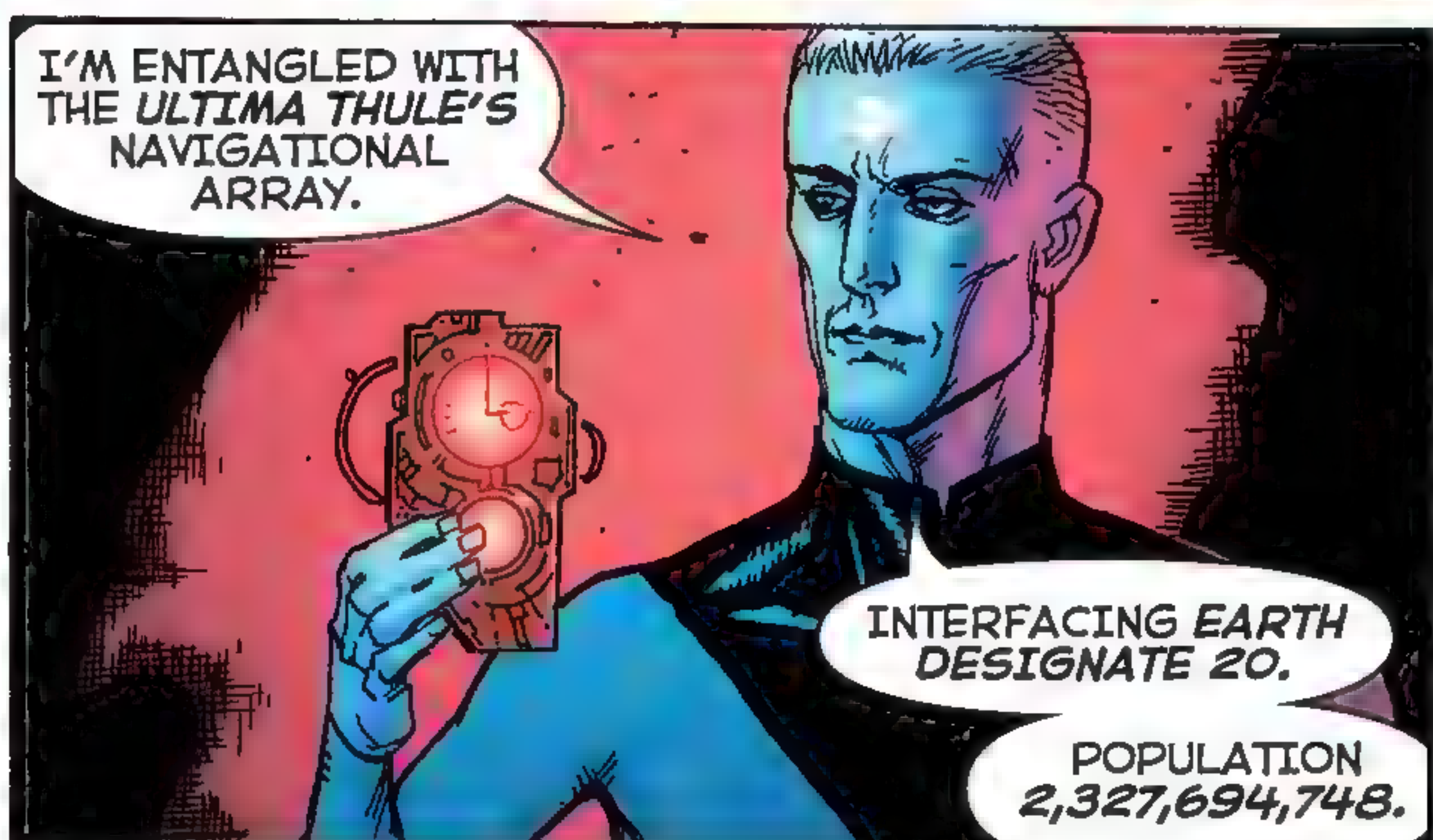
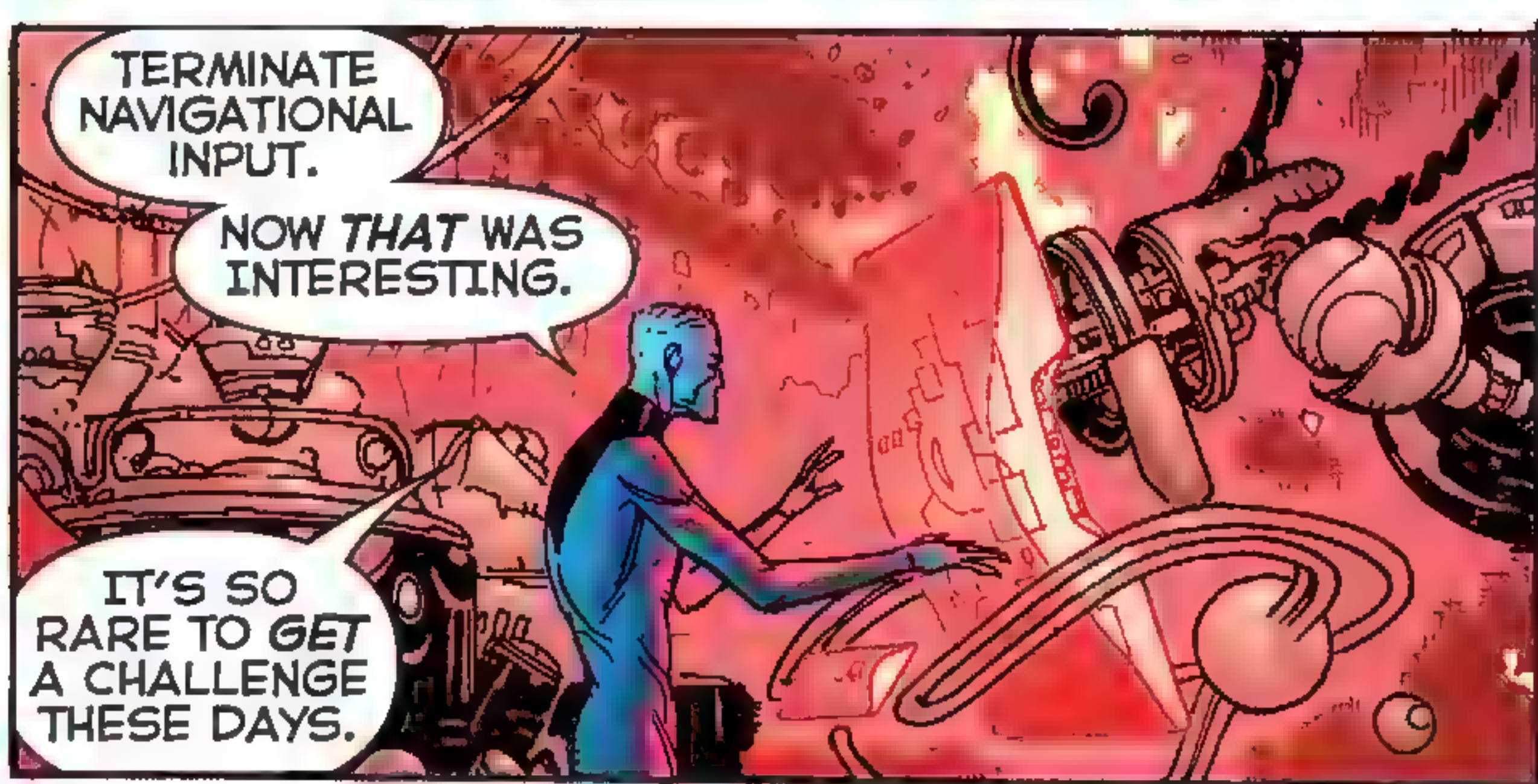
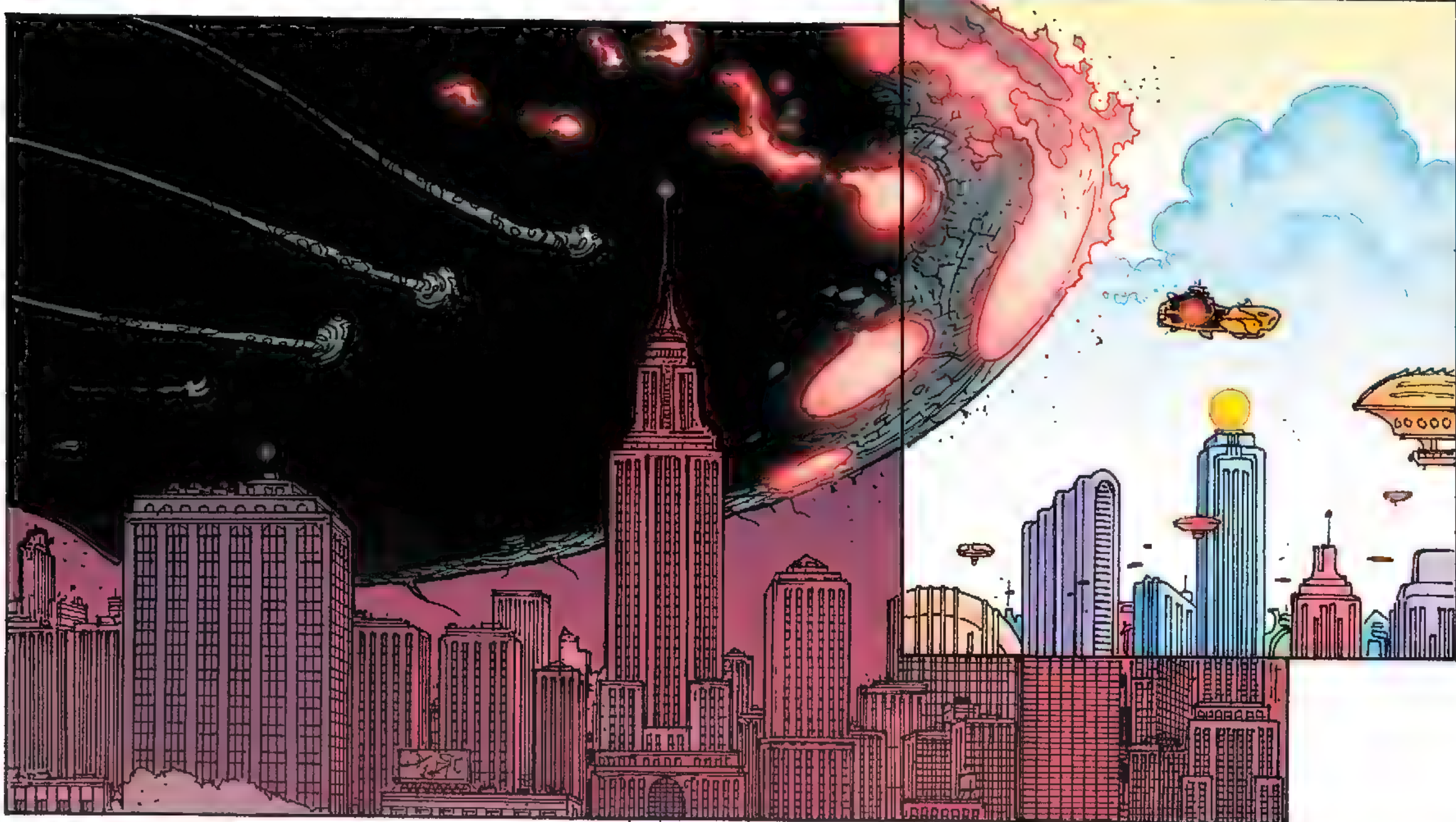
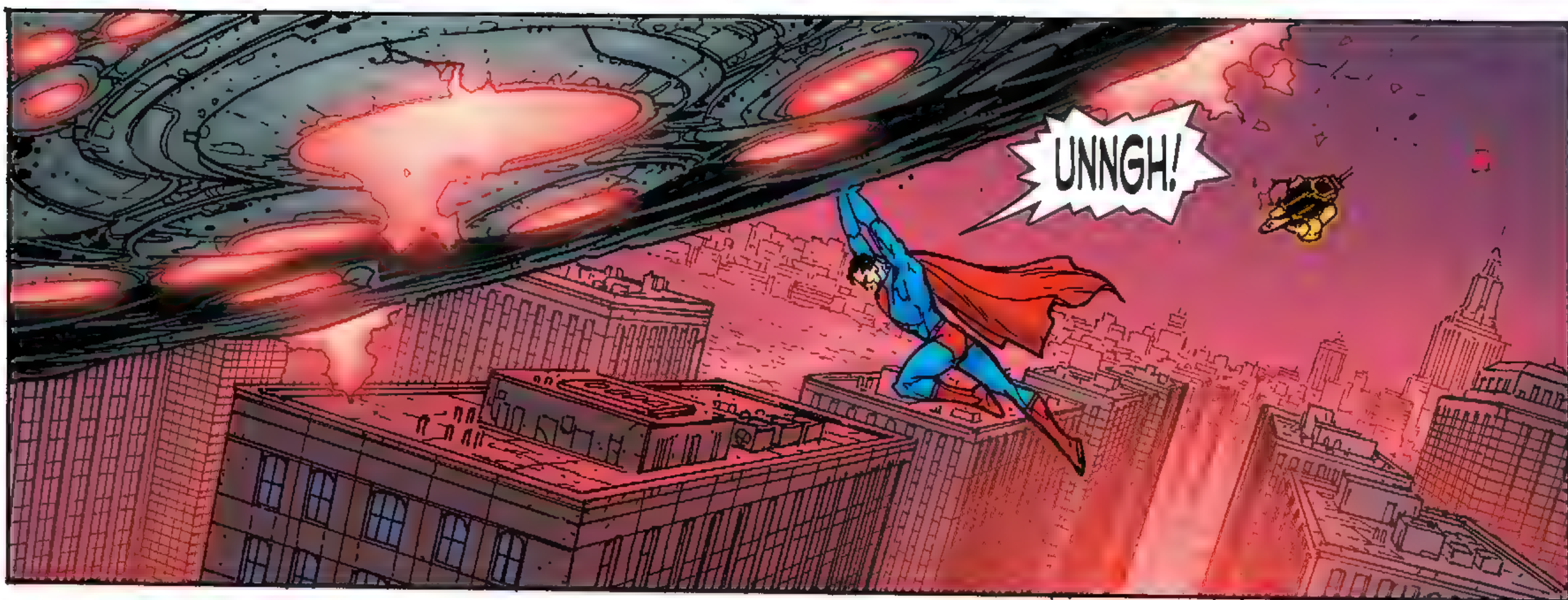
I TELESCOPE IN
TO THE FURNACE
EDGE AND THERE
HE IS.

USING WHATEVER
HE FINDS AS A
WEAPON, A TOOL
OF DESTRUCTION.



ULTRAMAN.





EARTH-20.

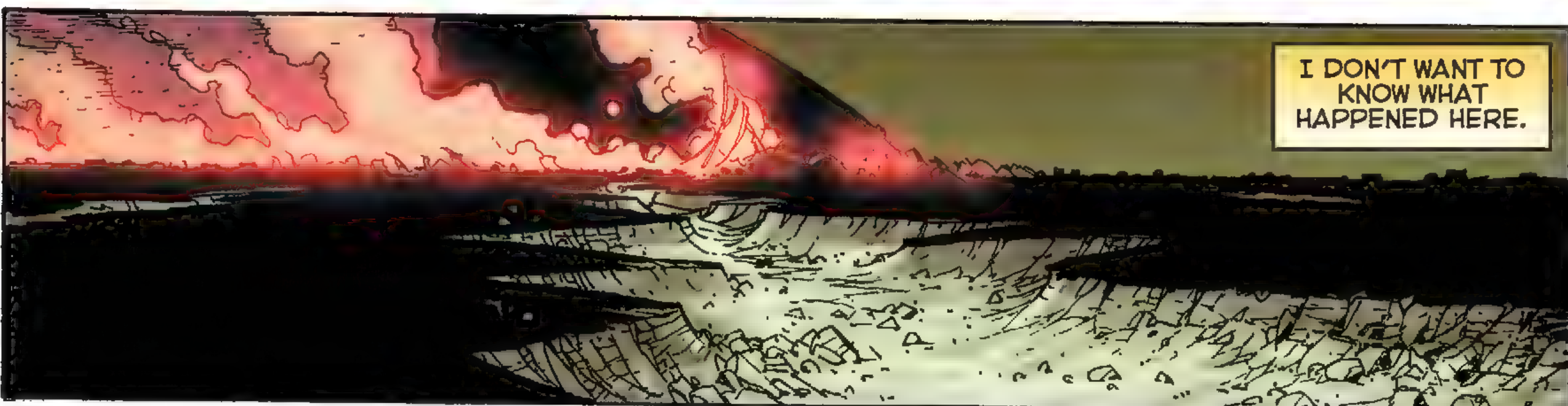
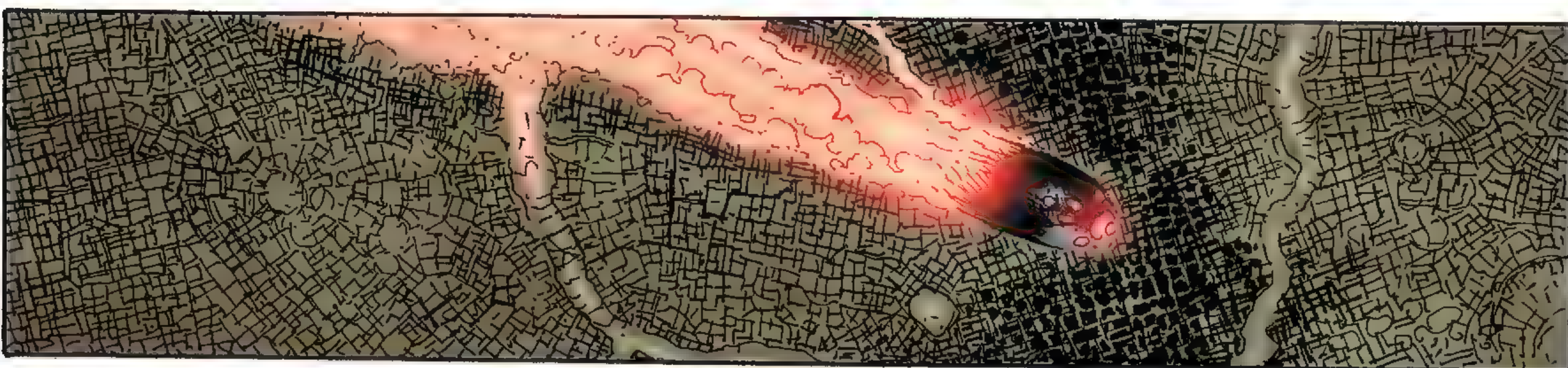
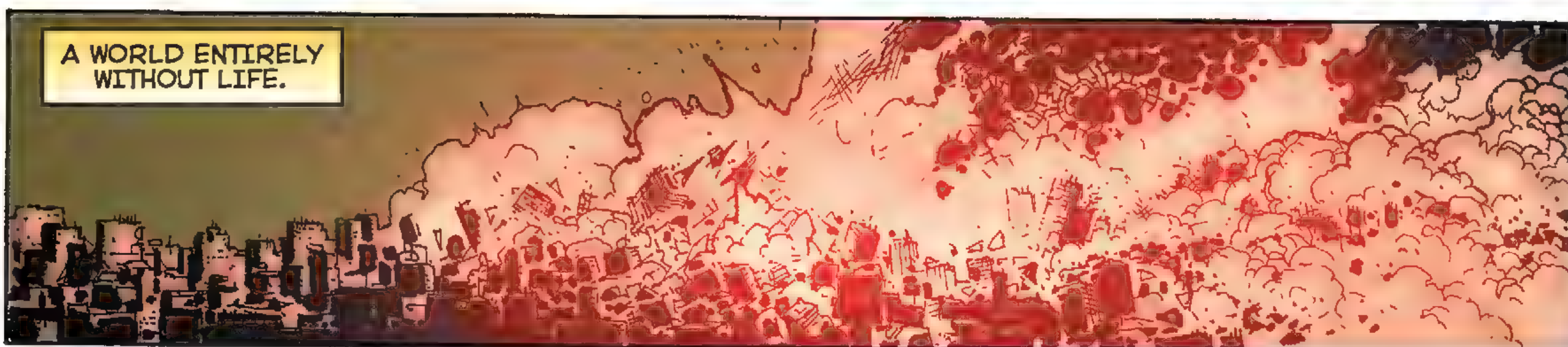
I CAN SMELL
CIGARETTE SMOKE,
NEWSPRINT AND
COTTON CANDY.

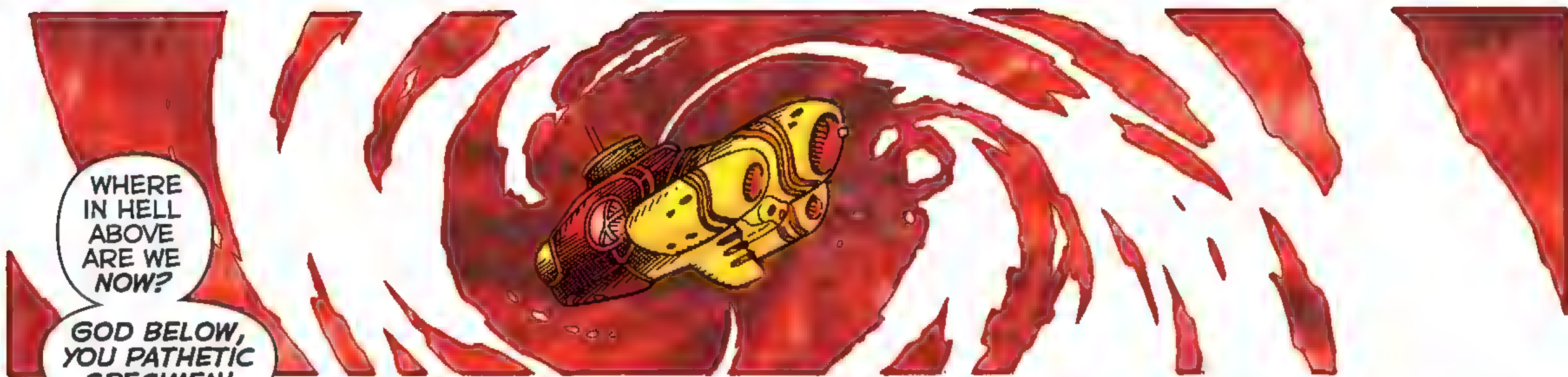
2,327,694,748
HUMAN LIVES.

IN MY
HANDS.

NOW EARTH-17 ROLLS
BENEATH ME, BURNING
WITH RADIOACTIVITY
AND HOPE.

CAN'T
HOLD IT ANY
LONGER...





WHERE
IN HELL
ABOVE
ARE WE
NOW?

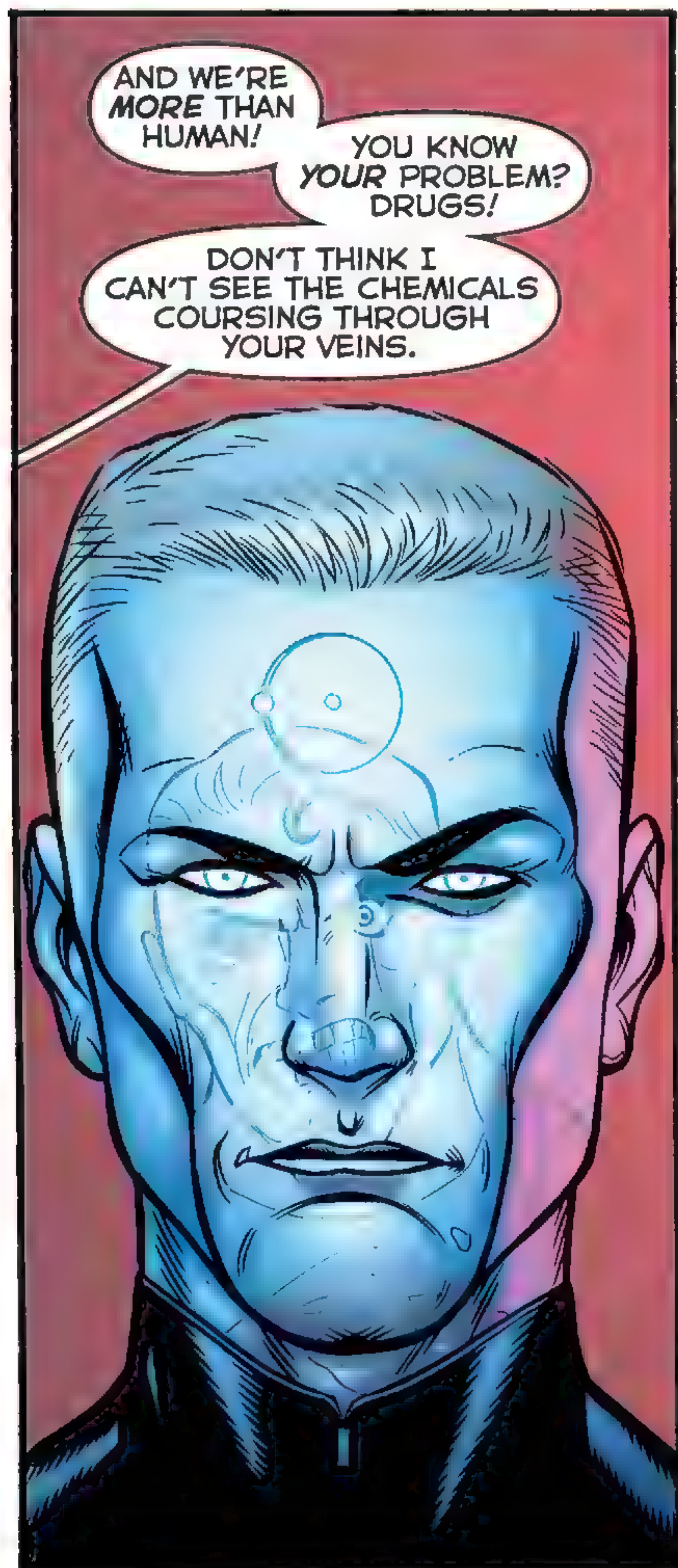
GOD BELOW,
YOU PATHETIC
SPECIMEN!

WHAT WERE
YOU DOING WHILE WE
WERE RISKING OUR
NECKS?

BONDING WITH THE
ONBOARD A.I.

THERE ARE
10 YOTTABYTES
OF DATA PERTAINING
TO MULTIVERSAL
NAVIGATION
ALONE.

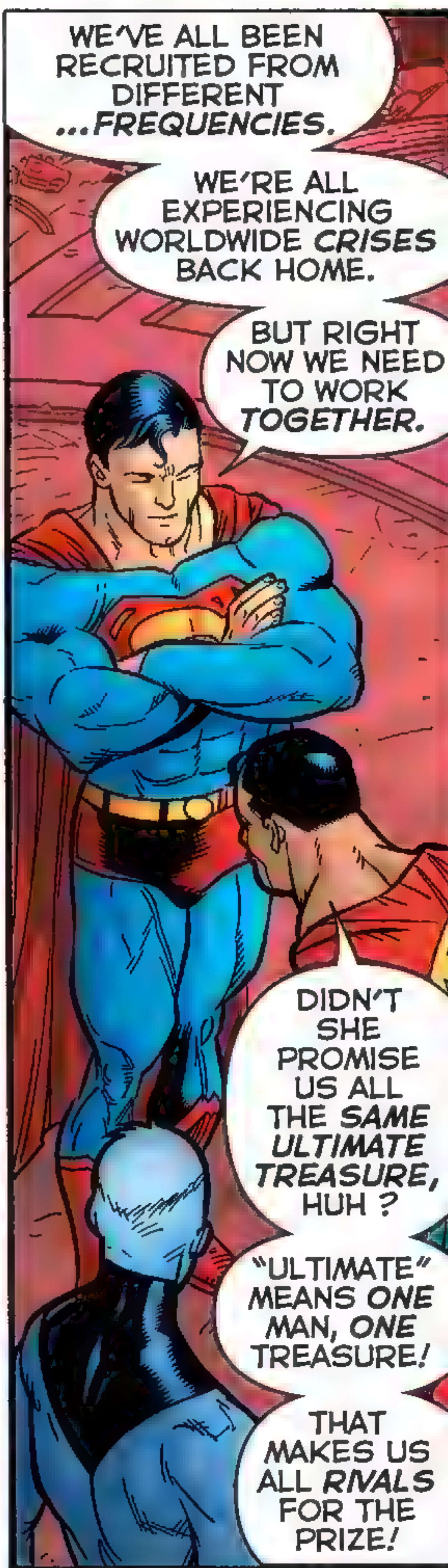
THE HUMAN
BRAIN HAS PROCESSING
CAPACITY AVAILABLE FOR ONLY
100 TRILLION INSTRUCTIONS
PER SECOND...



AND WE'RE
MORE THAN
HUMAN!

YOU KNOW
YOUR PROBLEM?
DRUGS!

DON'T THINK I
CAN'T SEE THE CHEMICALS
COURSING THROUGH
YOUR VEINS.



WE'VE ALL BEEN
RECRUITED FROM
DIFFERENT
...FREQUENCIES.

WE'RE ALL
EXPERIENCING
WORLDWIDE *CRISES*
BACK HOME.

BUT RIGHT
NOW WE NEED
TO WORK
TOGETHER.

DIDN'T
SHE
PROMISE
US ALL
THE SAME
ULTIMATE
TREASURE,
HUH?

"ULTIMATE"
MEANS ONE
MAN, ONE
TREASURE!

THAT
MAKES US
ALL RIVALS
FOR THE
PRIZE!

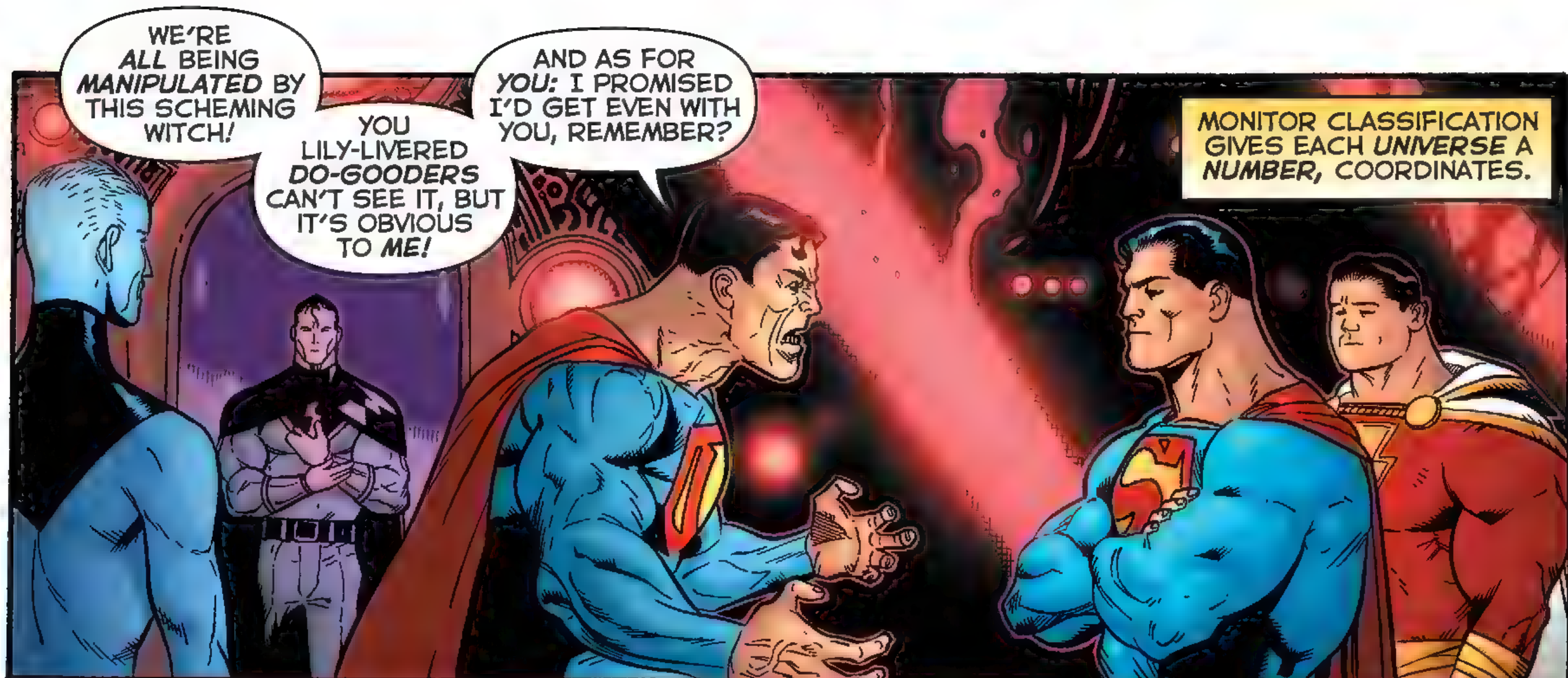


THE GLOWING
SPARK THAT POWERS
THIS CRAFT THROUGH
THE OVERVOID...

...IS MY
HEART.

WE ARE
DRIFTING, INTO THE
VOID... AND THERE IS BUT
ONE WAY TO REPLENISH
THAT BEATING ENGINE,
OVERMAN...

GROSSE
KRYPTON!

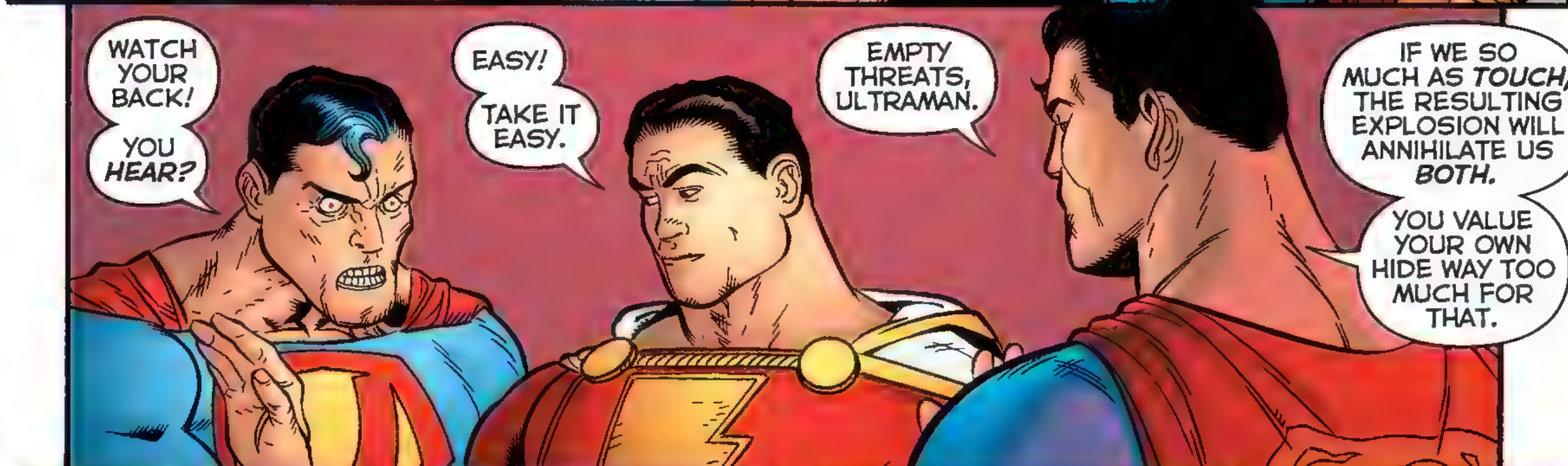


WE'RE ALL BEING MANIPULATED BY THIS SCHEMING WITCH!

YOU LILY-LIVERED DO-GOODERS CAN'T SEE IT, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME!

AND AS FOR YOU: I PROMISED I'D GET EVEN WITH YOU, REMEMBER?

MONITOR CLASSIFICATION GIVES EACH UNIVERSE A NUMBER, COORDINATES.



WATCH YOUR BACK!

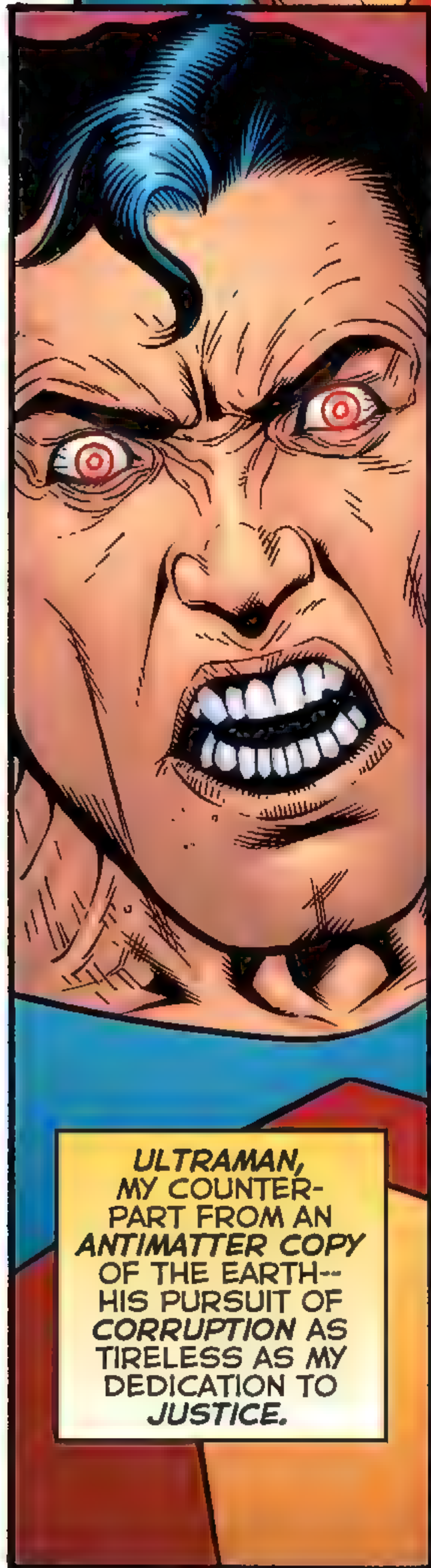
YOU HEAR?

EASY! TAKE IT EASY.

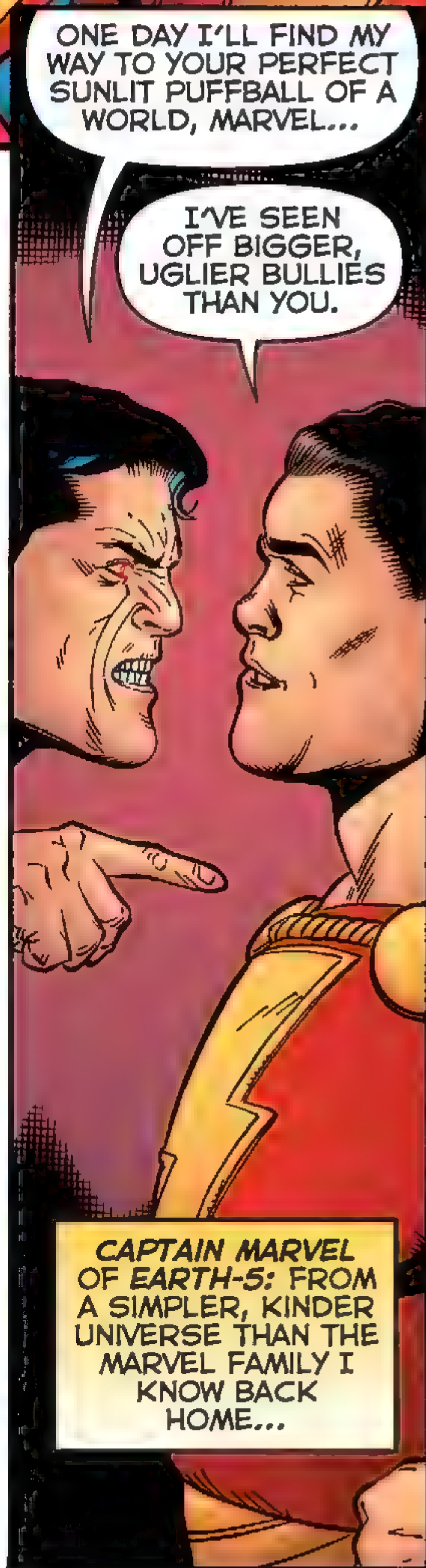
EMPTY THREATS, ULTRAMAN.

IF WE SO MUCH AS TOUCH, THE RESULTING EXPLOSION WILL ANNIHILATE US BOTH.

YOU VALUE YOUR OWN HIDE WAY TOO MUCH FOR THAT.



ULTRAMAN, MY COUNTERPART FROM AN ANTIMATTER COPY OF THE EARTH-- HIS PURSUIT OF CORRUPTION AS TIRELESS AS MY DEDICATION TO JUSTICE.



ONE DAY I'LL FIND MY WAY TO YOUR PERFECT SUNLIT PUFFBALL OF A WORLD, MARVEL...

I'VE SEEN OFF BIGGER, UGLIER BULLIES THAN YOU.

CAPTAIN MARVEL OF EARTH-5: FROM A SIMPLER, KINDER UNIVERSE THAN THE MARVEL FAMILY I KNOW BACK HOME...



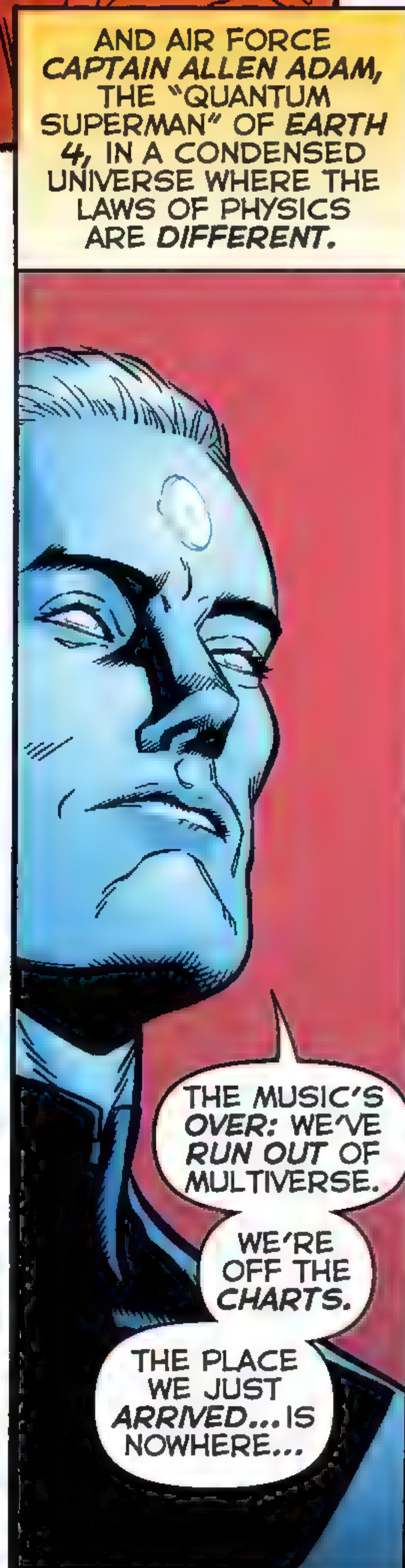
OVERMAN, GUILT-RIDDEN CHAMPION OF EARTH 10, WHERE NAZIS WON THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MUSIC?

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD THE GREAT SAD MUSIC?

ALLE DIESE UNIVERSEN DIE IN VERSCHIEDENEN FREQUENZEN VIBRIEREN

ON HIS WORLD, ENGLISH IS A DEAD LANGUAGE, WHICH HE SPEAKS RELUCTANTLY, ENUNCIATING EACH WORD.



AND AIR FORCE CAPTAIN ALLEN ADAM, THE "QUANTUM SUPERMAN" OF EARTH 4, IN A CONDENSED UNIVERSE WHERE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS ARE DIFFERENT.

THE MUSIC'S OVER: WE'VE RUN OUT OF MULTIVERSE.

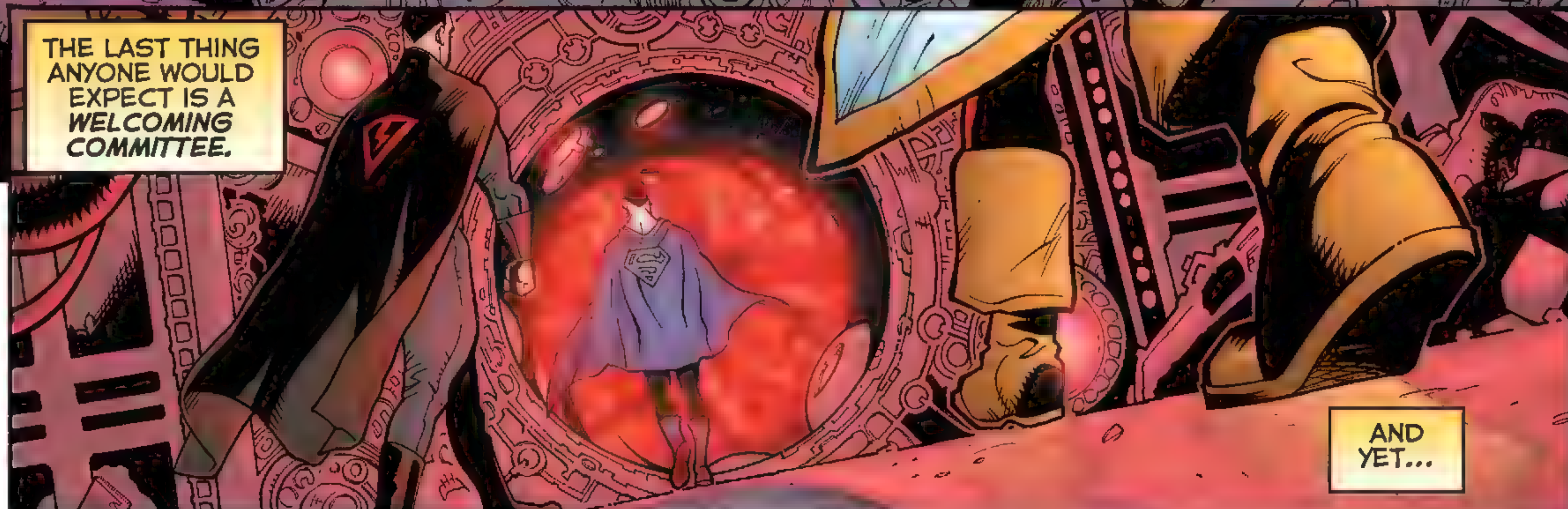
WE'RE OFF THE CHARTS.

THE PLACE WE JUST ARRIVED... IS NOWHERE...



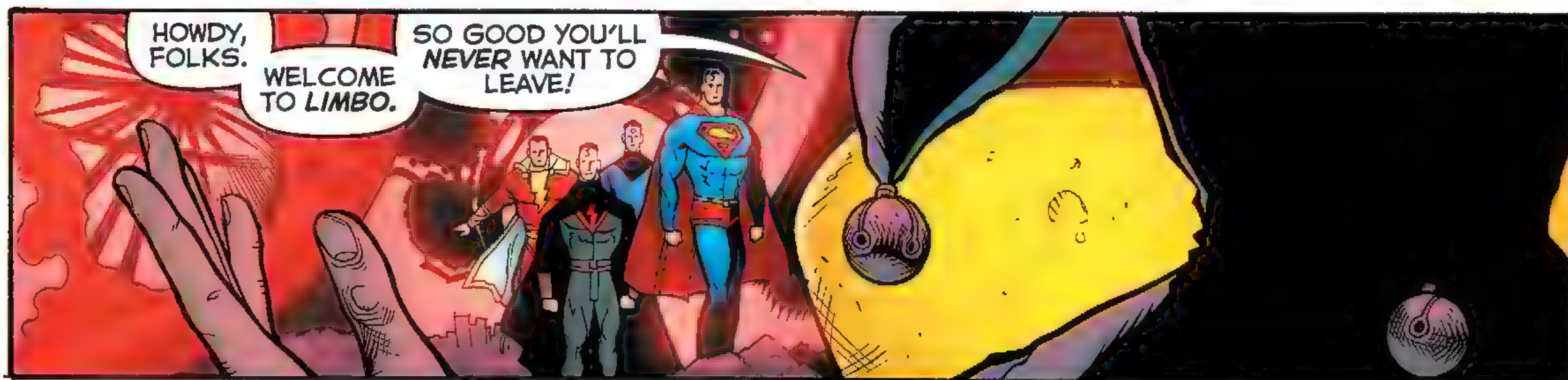
WE'RE ABOUT AS LOST AS ANYONE CAN BE.

BEACHED ON THE SHORES OF OBLIVION.



THE LAST THING ANYONE WOULD EXPECT IS A WELCOMING COMMITTEE.

AND YET...



HOWDY, FOLKS.

WELCOME TO LIMBO.

SO GOOD YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE!



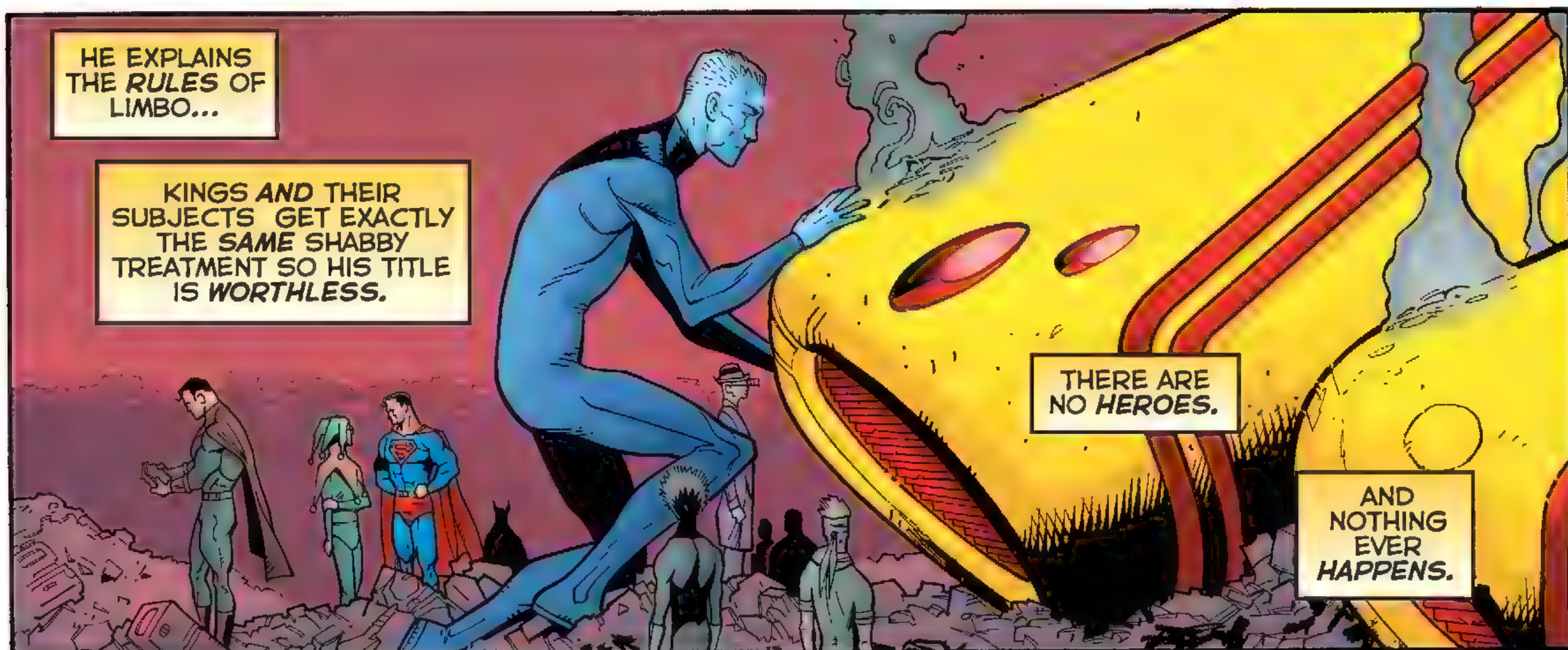
JOKE.

ACTUALLY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE.

IN A CRACKED, BRIGHT VOICE, HE TELLS US HIS NAME IS **MERRYMAN**, THE KING OF LIMBO.

A **SUPERHERO** ONCE, HE SAYS, UNTIL THE WORLD FORGOT HIM AND HE WOUND UP... **NOWHERE**, ALONG WITH ALL THESE **OTHERS**...

IS THIS... IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS TO US WHEN WE DIE?



HE EXPLAINS
THE RULES OF
LIMBO...

KINGS AND THEIR
SUBJECTS GET EXACTLY
THE SAME SHABBY
TREATMENT SO HIS TITLE
IS WORTHLESS.

THERE ARE
NO HEROES.

AND
NOTHING
EVER
HAPPENS.



WAS IST
DAS?

ICH KANN
MICH NICHT DARAN
ERINNERN WIESO
ICH DAS MACHE;
DIE GANZE
TECHNIK IST FÜR
DEN HUND.

THIS IS
WHAT I WAS
LOOKING
FOR!

THIS SHARD
FROM THE ROCK
OF ETERNITY WAS
BROKEN OFF IN
MY CLIMACTIC
BATTLE WITH...
WITH...

...WITH
ONE OF MY
ENEMIES...

MARVEL,
WE STAY HERE
TOO LONG, WE
LOSE OUR
MEMORIES.



OH, IT'S
MUCH WORSE
THAN THAT.

ARE YOU
KIDDING?

SOON YOU'LL
DISAPPEAR FROM
EVERYONE ELSE'S
MEMORIES TOO,
LIKE I DID!



NO, THERE
HAS TO BE A
WAY OUT.

I WON'T LET
MY WIFE DOWN, OR
ANYBODY ELSE.

WHAT'S IN
THERE?

OH,
NOTHING WORTH
LOOKING AT.

LIBRARY OF
LIMBO... BELIEVE
ME, NOBODY GOES
THERE!

SERIOUSLY, NOTHING
HAPPENS IN LIMBO WHICH
MEANS THERE ARE NO SUCH
THINGS AS STORIES SO...
I'M SORRY...



THE NEWS
ABOUT YOUR WIFE
BREAKS MY HEART,
BUT SOMETIMES
YOU JUST HAVE TO
ACCEPT THAT
MAYBE YOU'RE
WASTING YOUR
TIME.

THAT'S IF
WE EVEN HAD
SUCH A THING
AS TIME TO
WASTE.

THE
LIBRARY
OF LIMBO
HAS ONLY
ONE BOOK
AND NO
ONE CAN
READ IT!

SHOW
ME.



...DON'T SAY
I DIDN'T WARN
YOU.

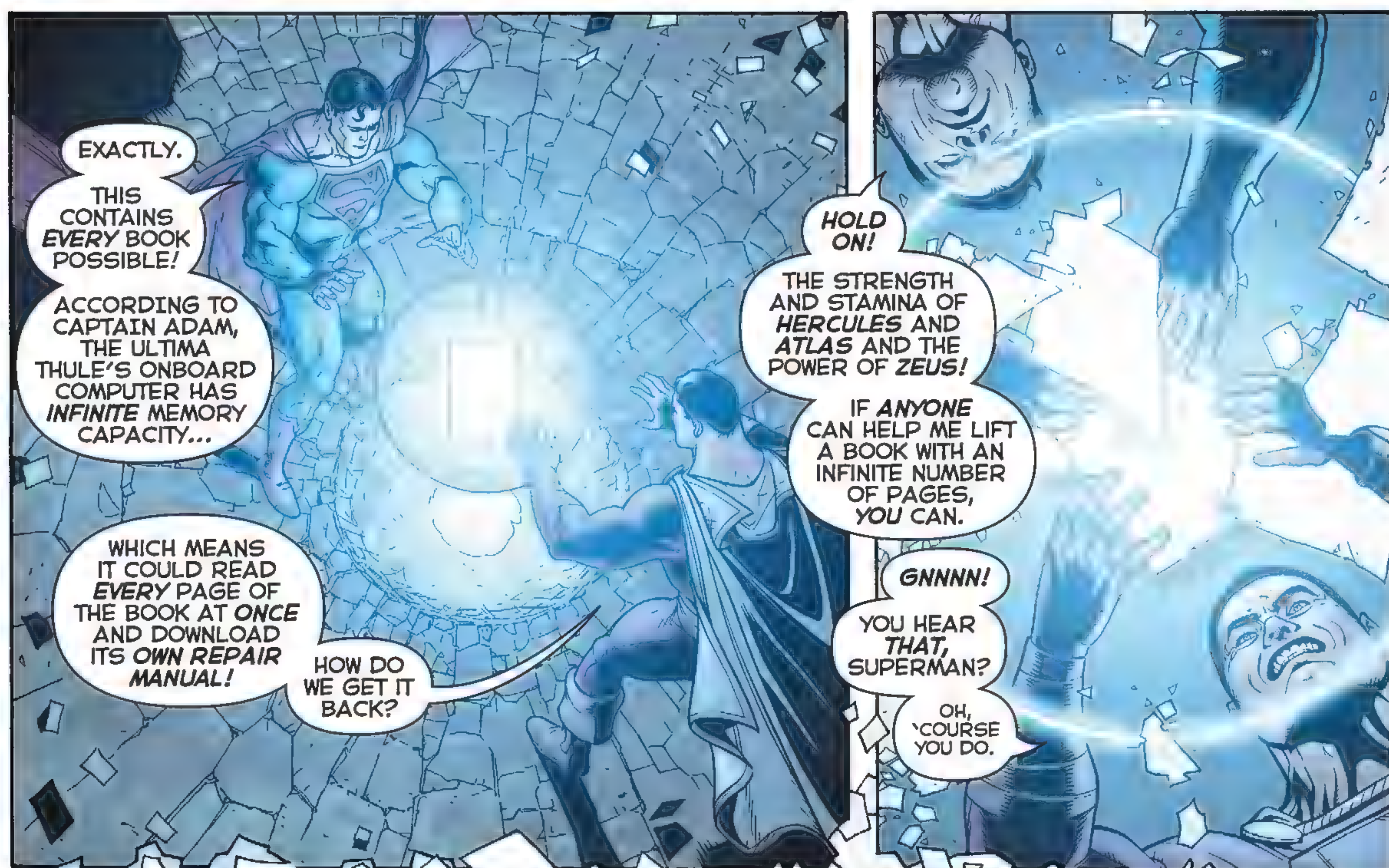
I MEAN,
SERIOUSLY!
IT WAS
WRITTEN BY
A MONKEY.

A BOOK WITH AN
INFINITE NUMBER OF
PAGES, ALL OCCUPYING
THE SAME SPACE.

OF COURSE
NO-ONE CAN
READ IT.

HOLY
MOLEY!

WOULDN'T
THAT
MEAN...



EXACTLY.

THIS
CONTAINS
EVERY BOOK
POSSIBLE!

ACCORDING TO
CAPTAIN ADAM,
THE ULTIMA
THULE'S ONBOARD
COMPUTER HAS
INFINITE MEMORY
CAPACITY...

WHICH MEANS
IT COULD READ
EVERY PAGE OF
THE BOOK AT ONCE
AND DOWNLOAD
ITS OWN REPAIR
MANUAL!

HOW DO
WE GET IT
BACK?

HOLD
ON!

THE STRENGTH
AND STAMINA OF
HERCULES AND
ATLAS AND THE
POWER OF ZEUS!

IF ANYONE
CAN HELP ME LIFT
A BOOK WITH AN
INFINITE NUMBER
OF PAGES,
YOU CAN.

GNNNN!

YOU HEAR
THAT,
SUPERMAN?

OH,
'COURSE
YOU DO.

PREVIOUSLY!

THERE WAS
MONITOR
ONLY!

AND
THEN!

A FLAW FOUND
AT THE HEART
OF MONITOR
PERFECTION!

MONITOR
MAKES A
CONCEPT
TO CONTAIN
THE FLAW!



MONITOR
EXAMINATION REVEALS
WITHIN TERRIFYING,
UNFORESEEN
COMPLEXITIES AND
CONTRADICTIONS!

MAGNIFICATION
REVEALS A STRUCTURE
OF INFINITESIMAL
RIPPLING MANIFOLDS
UPON WHOSE SURFACE
INTRICATE GERM-LIKE
PROCESSES THRIVE
AND MULTIPLY!



GRAAHH...FEED-BACK'S MAKING MY SKULL RING, SUPERMAN!

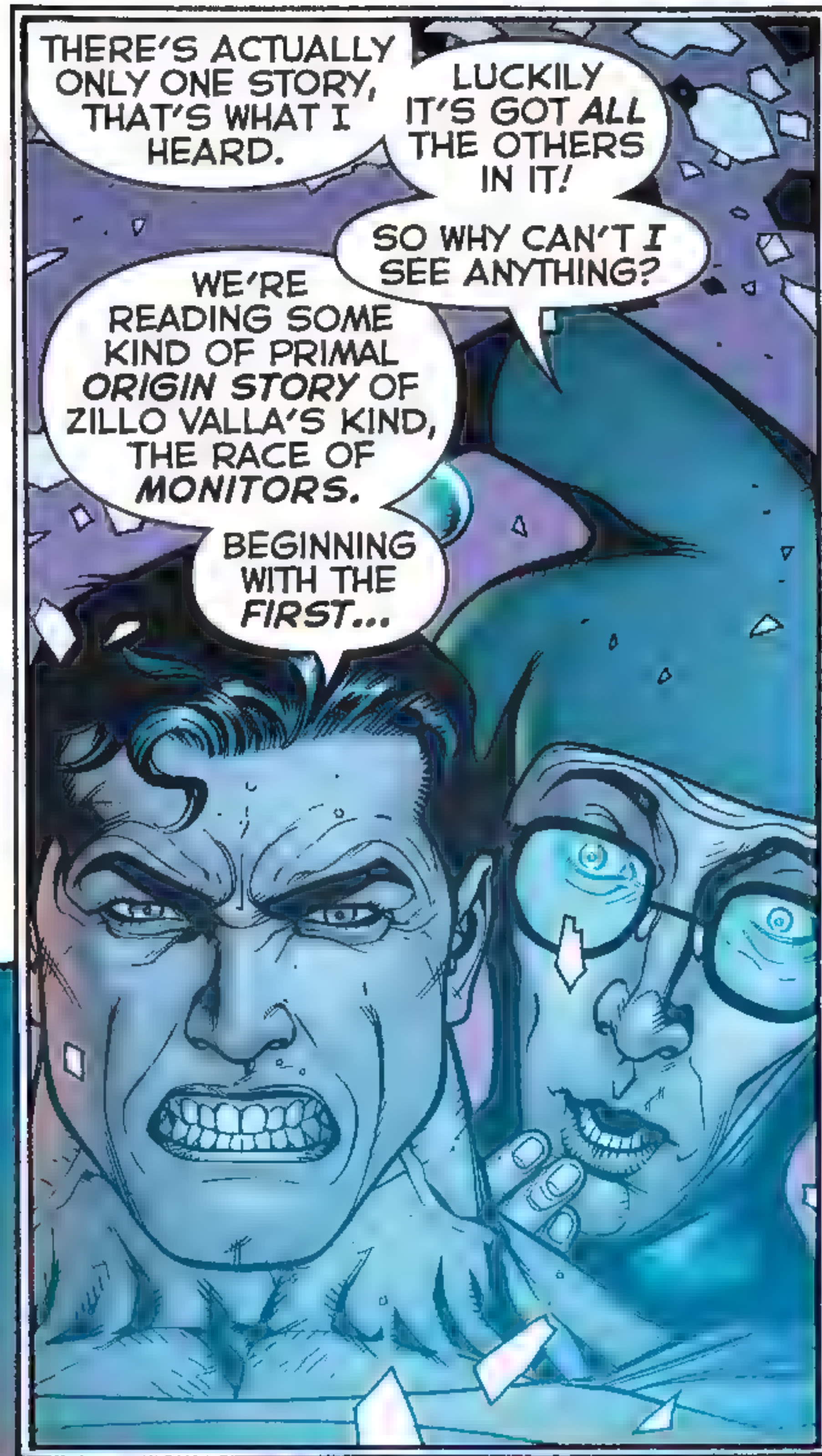
THIS MONITOR...IT'S TOO IMMENSE TO IMAGINE!

HOW CAN SOMETHING BE BIGGER THAN UNIVERSES?

SOME KIND OF ABSTRACT INFINITE INTELLIGENCE, THE BIGGEST LIFE FORM I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

A CONSCIOUS, LIVING VOID!

WITH OUR ENTIRE MULTIVERSE GROWING INSIDE IT.



THERE'S ACTUALLY ONLY ONE STORY, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.

LUCKILY IT'S GOT ALL THE OTHERS IN IT!

SO WHY CAN'T I SEE ANYTHING?

WE'RE READING SOME KIND OF PRIMAL ORIGIN STORY OF ZILLO VALLA'S KIND, THE RACE OF MONITORS.

BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST...



MONITOR EXTENDS A PROBE!...

DESIGNED TO BLEND WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS, THE PROBE SECURES CONTACT!...

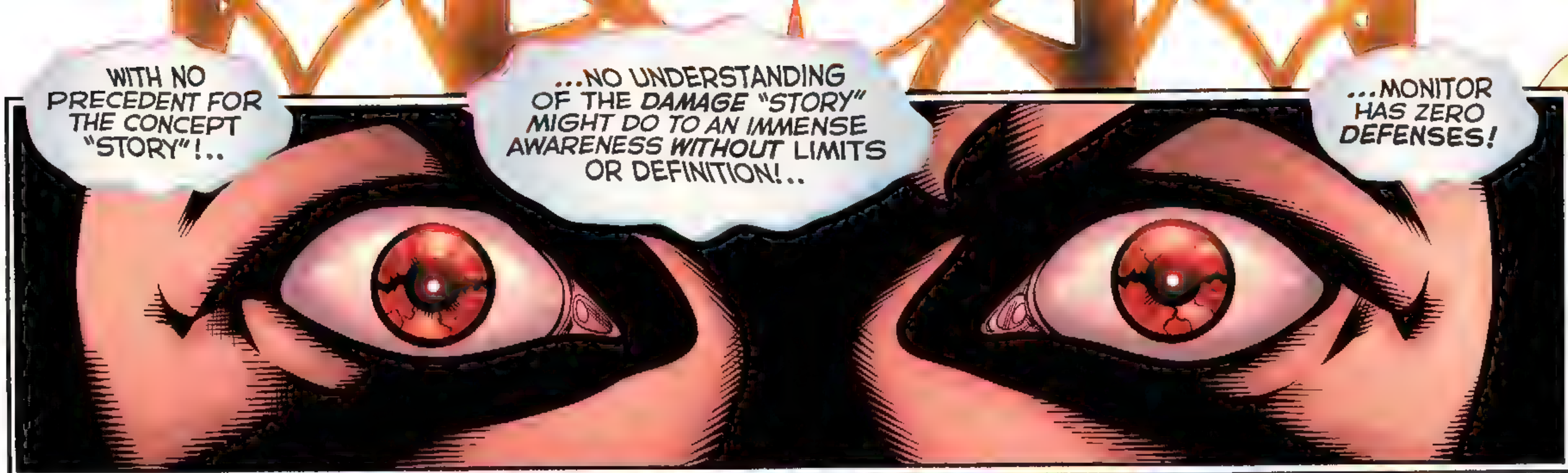
...WITH SOMETHING MONITOR HAS NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED!



INSIDE THE FLAW--A CHAOTIC FROTH OF EVENTS!

LIVES. DEATHS. HEROES. VILLAINS. LOVERS.

STORIES!



WITH NO
PRECEDENT FOR
THE CONCEPT
"STORY"!...

...NO UNDERSTANDING
OF THE DAMAGE "STORY"
MIGHT DO TO AN IMMENSE
AWARENESS WITHOUT LIMITS
OR DEFINITION!...

...MONITOR
HAS ZERO
DEFENSES!



BLINDED,
SPLIT IN TWO,
THE PROBE
WITHDRAWS!

THE FLAW
IS SEALED,
SCABBED OVER.
WITH DIVINE
METALS!

MADE
SAFE.



UNTIL ALL
THAT REMAINS OF
THAT ILL-FATED
FIRST CONTACT IS
A VAST, UNCANNY
FORM!



THE MYSTERY
OF THE SILENT SENTINEL
HAUNTS MONITOR, INFECTS
THE IMMACULATE INTELLIGENCE
WITH QUESTIONS,
SPECULATIONS, PESTILENTIAL,
CRAWLING NARRATIVES.

LEGEND TAKES
ROOT...AND STORY,
LIKE CONTAGION,
SPREADS
UNCHECKED!

BECOMES
THIS HISTORY OF A
ONCE-MIGHTY RACE OF
HYPER-GODS, DIRECT
DESCENDANTS OF THE
FIRST IMMENSE,
UNKNOWNABLE
MONITOR!

THIS EPIC
ELEGY FOR A DOOMED
CIVILIZATION, DECLINING
FROM SPLENDOR TO
SQUALOR.

THIS
FINAL
CRISIS.

THIS LAST-DITCH
ATTEMPT TO SAVE
CREATION ITSELF FROM
A LOATHING AND
GREED BEYOND
MEASURE!

BUT
FIRST...EONS
PASS OF PEACE
AND PLENTY WHILE
THE HAUNTING
RELIC OF FIRST
CONTACT RUSTS,
NEGLECTED!

IT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN,
IT WILL ALWAYS
BE.

YET ITS
SHADOW
GROWS EVER
LONGER, EVER
COLDER IN A
DEEPENING
TWILIGHT.

AFTER EXTENSIVE
STUDY, THE CIRCLE
OF MONITORS MAKES
ITS EVALUATION.

IT CAN
ONLY BE A
WEAPON.

A DOOMSDAY
MACHINE
ENGINEERED BY
GENIUS TO DEFEND
US AGAINST SOME
ULTIMATE
ENEMY.

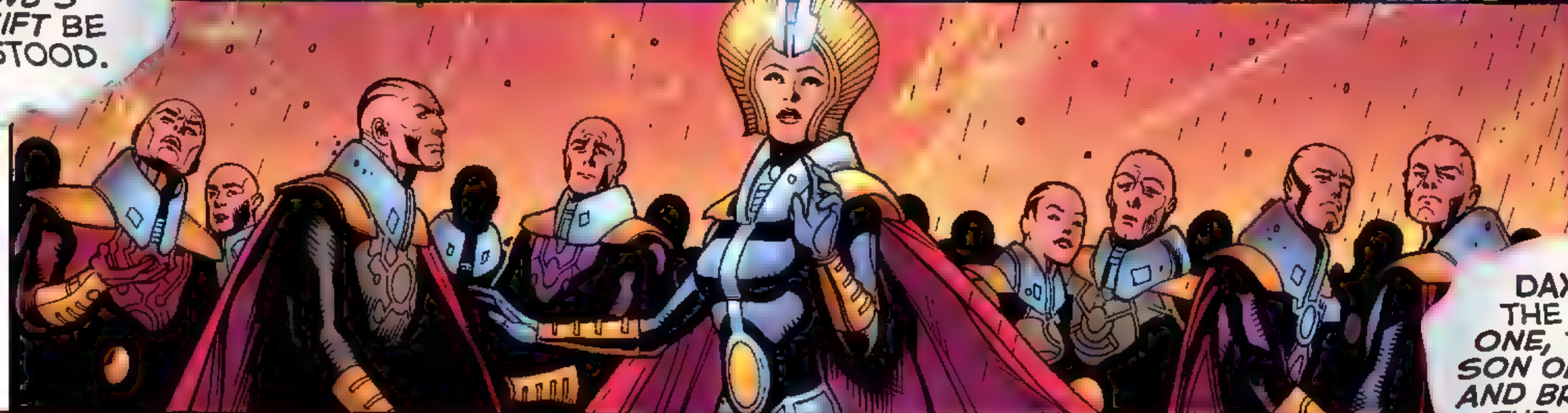


DREAD OF
THE THING
GROWS.

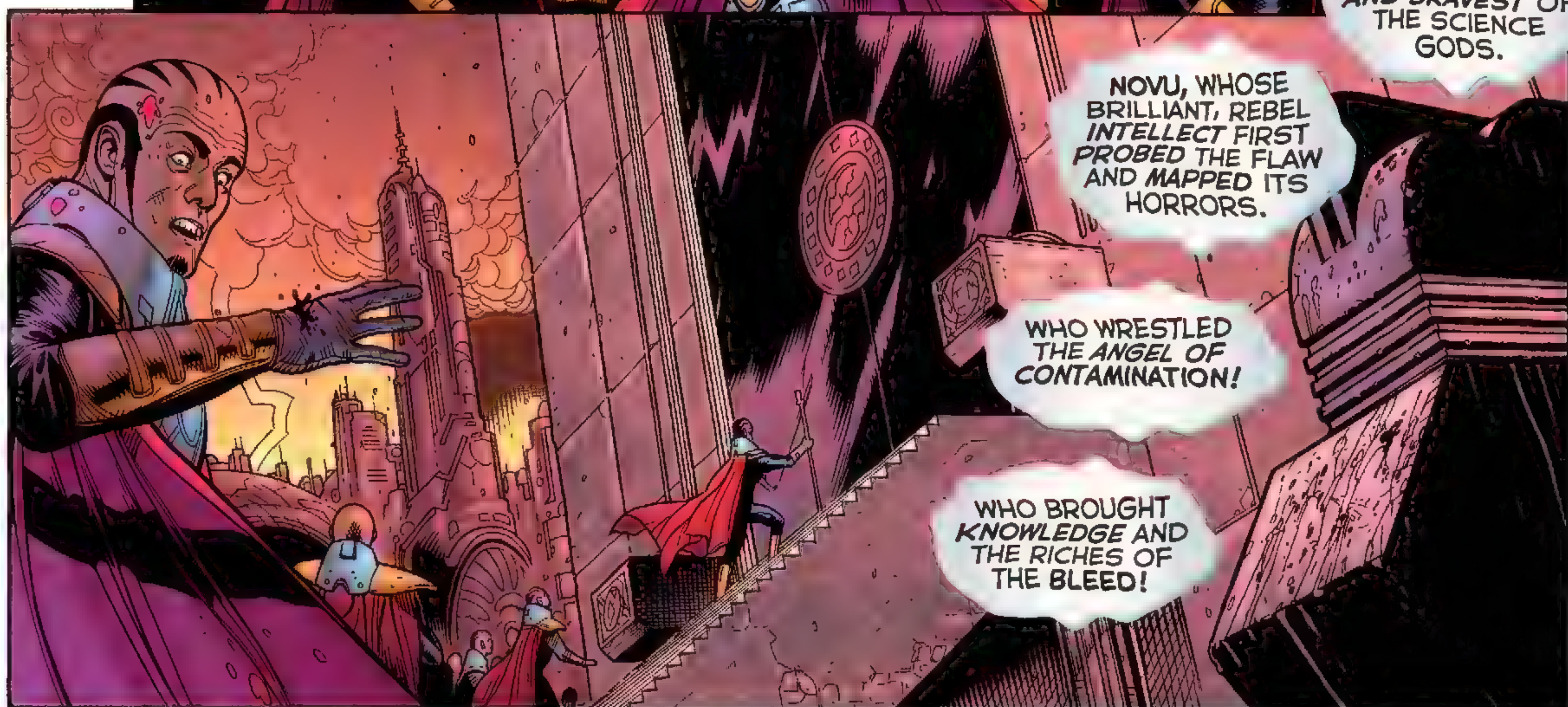
RUMOR
SPREADS.

ONLY ON THE
LAST DAY WILL
IT YIELD UP ITS
SECRETS, IT
IS SAID.

ONLY THEN
WILL THE STORY
OF NOVU'S
FINAL GIFT BE
UNDERSTOOD.



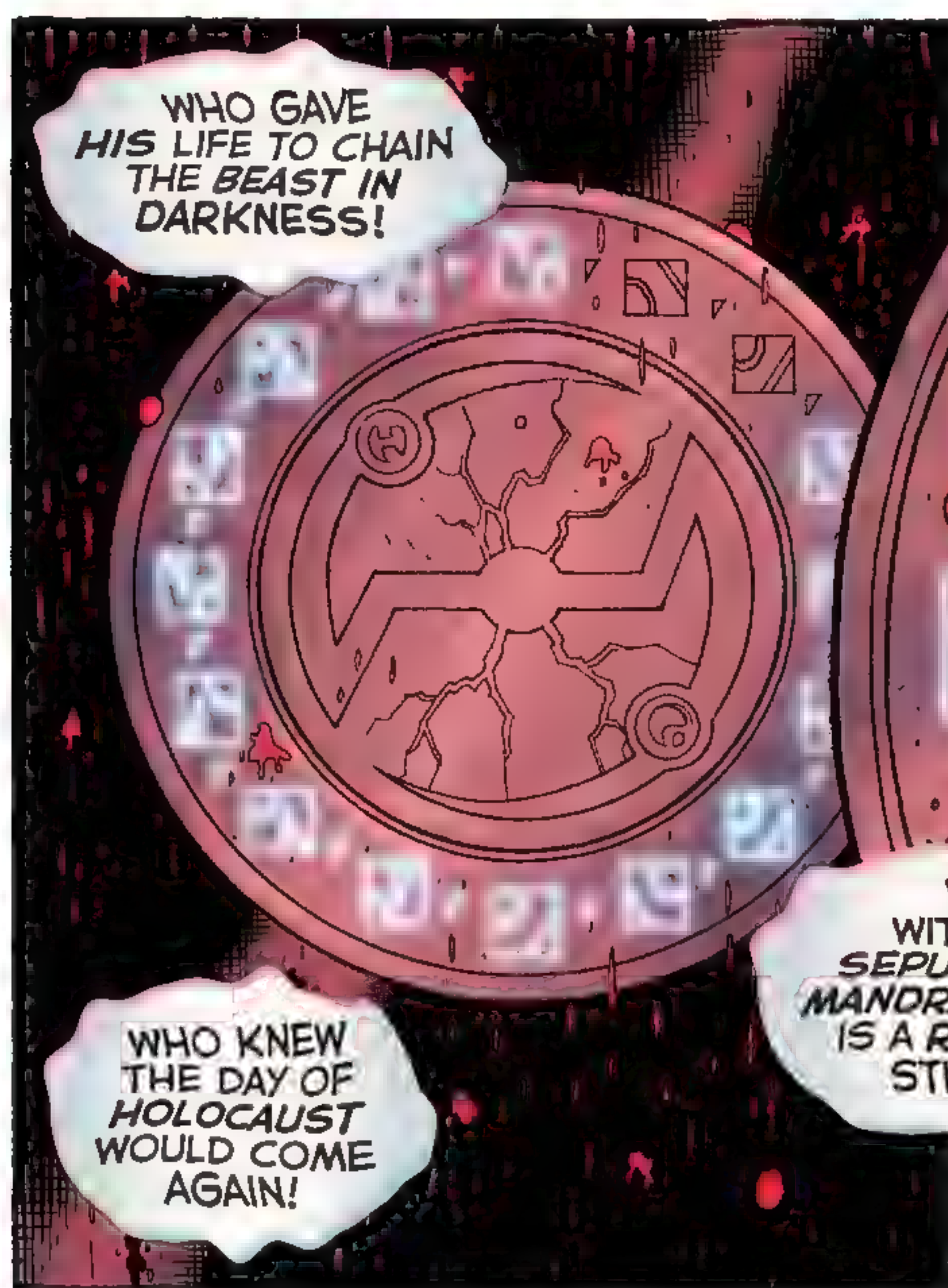
DAX NOVU,
THE RADIANT
ONE, THE FIRST
SON OF MONITOR
AND BRAVEST OF
THE SCIENCE
GODS.



NOVU, WHOSE
BRILLIANT, REBEL
INTELLECT FIRST
PROBED THE FLAW
AND MAPPED ITS
HORRORS.

WHO WRESTLED
THE ANGEL OF
CONTAMINATION!

WHO BROUGHT
KNOWLEDGE AND
THE RICHES OF
THE BLEED!

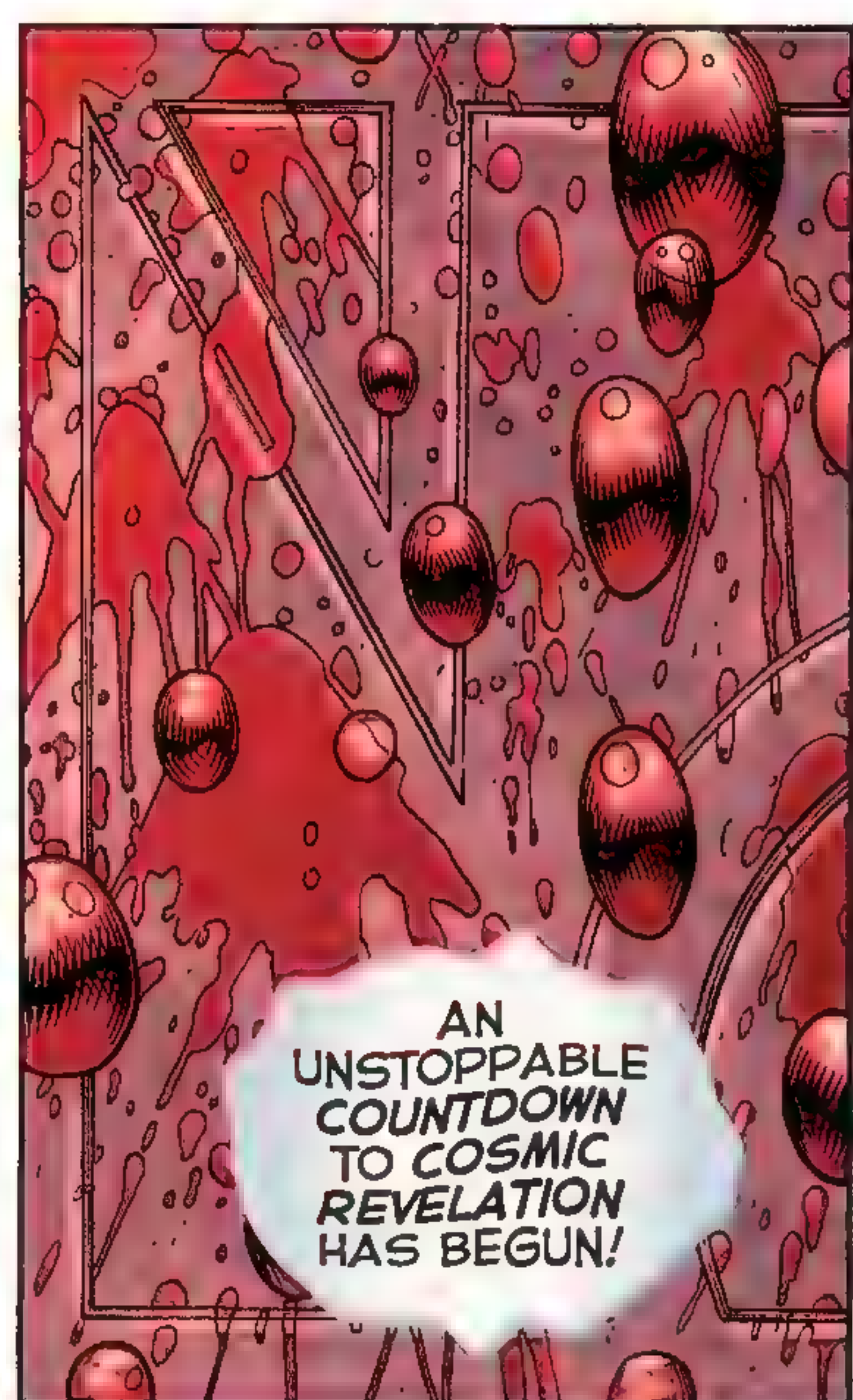


WHO GAVE
HIS LIFE TO CHAIN
THE BEAST IN
DARKNESS!

WHO KNEW
THE DAY OF
HOLOCAUST
WOULD COME
AGAIN!

DEEP
WITHIN THE
SEPULCHRE OF
MANDRAKK THERE
IS A RESTLESS
STIRRING.

IN THE
PLAGUE PIT,
THE PRIME
EATER OF LIFE
SENSES ITS
FREEDOM!



AN
UNSTOPPABLE
COUNTDOWN
TO COSMIC
REVELATION
HAS BEGUN!



THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

ONLY NOTHING CAN HAPPEN IN LIMBO.

YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND TRYING TO START STUFF UP! YOU'RE MESSING WITH THINGS NO ONE UNDERSTANDS, LEAST OF ALL ME!

BILLY!

NOBODY'S SPECIAL...NOTHING HAPPENS...

THERE'S NOTHING BEYOND THE HORIZON B-BUT THE VOID, THE BLANK, THE ZIP, THE ZILCH...

STRUTTING AROUND MAKING DECISIONS? THAT'S HOW TO ANTAGONIZE PEOPLE HERE.

BILLY, WAKE UP!

YOU NEED TO SAY YOUR MAGIC WORD AND CHANGE BACK TO CAPTAIN MARVEL.



...CAN'T REMEMBER ANYMORE...

WUH-WISDOM OF SOLOMON...THE THING MOST DESPISED WILL SAVE THE BEST BELOVED... ULTIMATE GOOD IS ULTIMATE EVIL...SOLOMON...

WHUH-WHAT DID YOU SAY MY NAME WAS, SIR?



"DON'T TOUCH THE BOOK," I SAID.

I AM ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

MERRYMAN, I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.

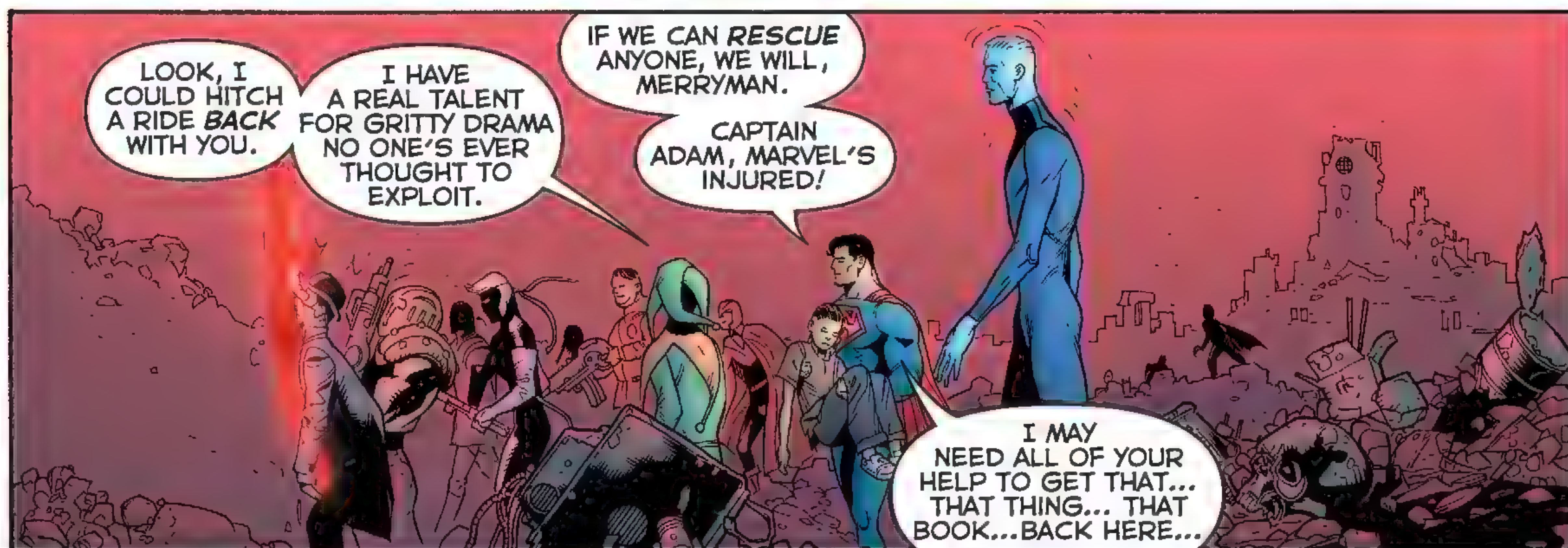
FIND ULTRAMAN AND OVERMAN.

I'LL BE BACK FOR THE BOOK.



...NO, BUT YOU SEE, NOW THEY KNOW SOMETHING CAN HAPPEN, THEY THINK ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

THE FIRST THING THEY'LL DO IS KILL ME FOR BEING SO USELESS.



LOOK, I COULD HITCH A RIDE BACK WITH YOU.

I HAVE A REAL TALENT FOR GRITTY DRAMA NO ONE'S EVER THOUGHT TO EXPLOIT.

IF WE CAN RESCUE ANYONE, WE WILL, MERRYMAN.

CAPTAIN ADAM, MARVEL'S INJURED!

I MAY NEED ALL OF YOUR HELP TO GET THAT... THAT THING... THAT BOOK...BACK HERE...



ALLEN ADAM MUMBLES TO HIMSELF...THE DRUGS THAT DAMPEN HIS QUANTUM SENSES TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS ARE WEARING OFF...

THIS IS HOW IT FELT THE FIRST TIME...WHEN I FIRST CHANGED...NOW I AM CHANGING...IS THEN NOW...

...MY SENSES EXPANDING BEYOND THE INFINITE...TOO FAST...TOO HOT...AND ALL AT ONCE..

I CAN FEEL MY OWN WITS FAILING.



I HAVE TO ACT.

ZILLO VALLA!

WHO SENT THAT DESTROYER AFTER US?

WHO IS MANDRAKK!



AHHHH.

YOU SAW THAT NAME IN A BOOK?

WHAT FORBIDDEN BLACK GOSPEL WAS THAT?

GREAT KRYPTON!

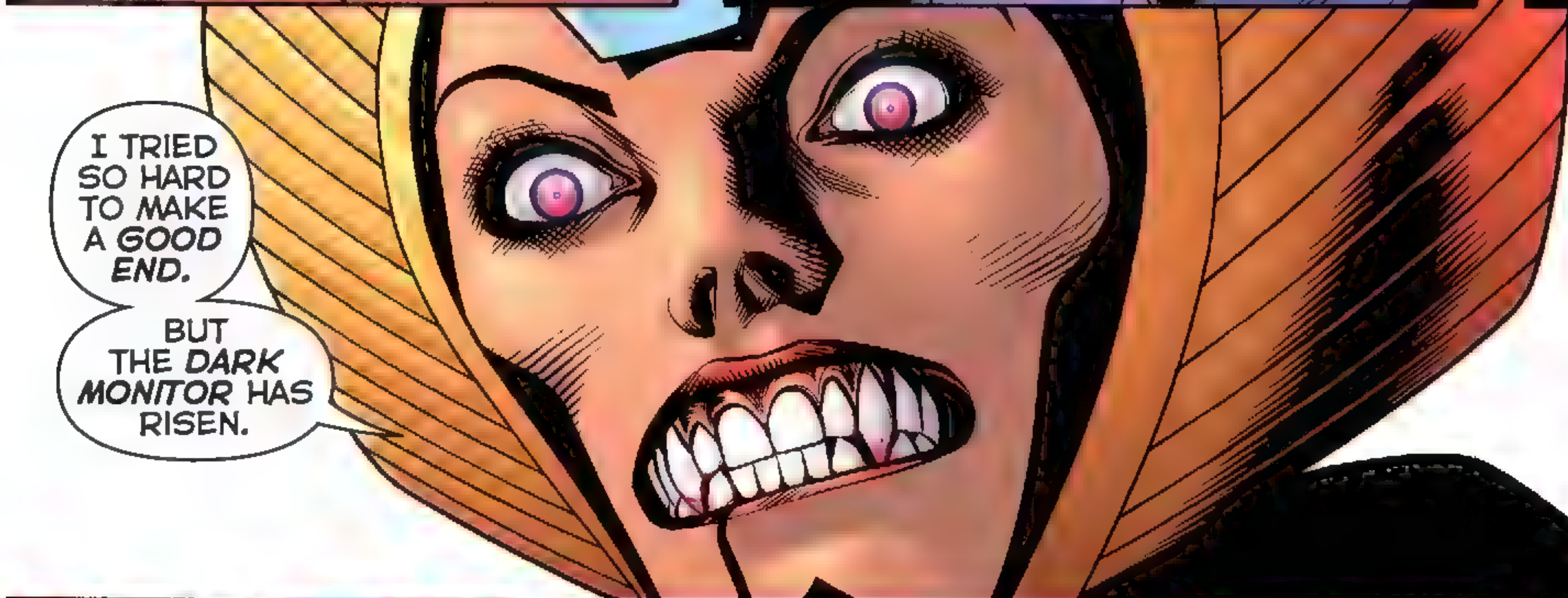
OVERMAN!



LIKE YOU, HE PROMISED HE'D GIVE ANYTHING IN HIS QUEST TO FIND HIS BELOVED COUSIN.

SO I TOOK HIS LIFE'S BLOOD, TO SAVE US ALL.

AS FOR THAT NAME, I TRIED TO SPARE YOU THE TRUE HORROR OF THE HATRED THAT THREATENS ALL EXISTENCE.



I TRIED SO HARD TO MAKE A GOOD END.

BUT THE DARK MONITOR HAS RISEN.

MANDRAKK WAKES.



CARRIERS, DESTROYERS, TANKERS AND EXPLORERS...

VAST IN SCALE FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, THESE MACHINES ARE MERE MONITOR NANOTECHNOLOGY!

THE EYES OF MANDRAKK.

SUPERMAN!

COME QUICKLY!



ALL IS LOST.

HE'S FOUND US.

THE SKY.

THE SKY JUST... SHATTERED.

I HAVE
THE PROOF,
HERE IN THIS
BOOK!

EVIL TRIUMPHS,
SUPERMAN, AND
THERE'S NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
ABOUT IT!

**EVIL
WINS IN THE
END!**





S U P E R M A N
B E Y O N D
P A R T 2

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writer

DOUG MAHNKE
penciller

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DREW GERACI & DEREK FRIDOLFS**
inkers

DAVID BARON
colorist

KEN LOPEZ
letterer

**DOUG MAHNKE, CHRISTIAN ALAMY &
DAVID BARON**
cover artist



WHERE I COME FROM, THE ONLY GOD WE ACKNOWLEDGE IS MAMMON, LORD OF GREED, PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP.

WE VALUE MATERIAL WEALTH ABOVE EVERYTHING.

DID I EVER TRULY BELIEVE IN RADICAL EVIL, UNIVERSAL EVIL AS A LIVING THING?



...NOT UNTIL I READ TO THE END OF THE INFINITE BOOK.

I SAW THE FINAL CHAPTER!

AND I FOUND SOMETHING GREATER THAN MYSELF!



THERE IS A GOD.

AND HE HATES US ALL.

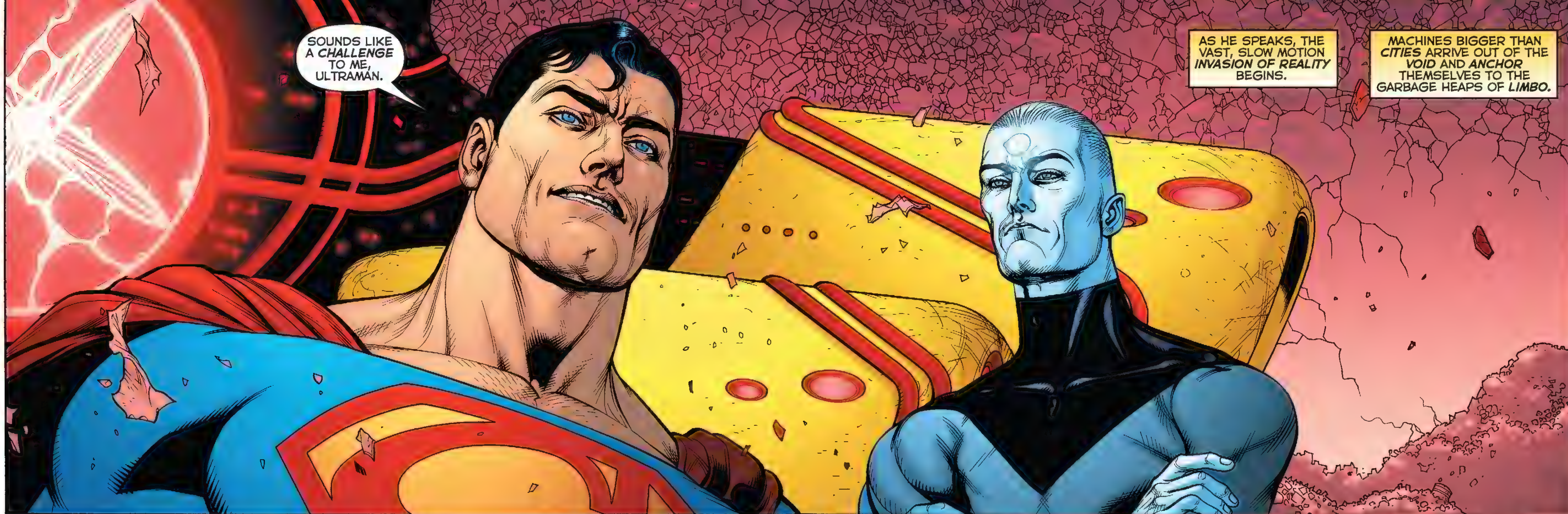
HE'S BUILDING A BRIDGE FROM THE VOID INTO THE MULTIVERSE... CRAWLING UP FROM DARKNESS TO FEED ON LIGHT.



THE BOOK SAYS HIS NAME IS MANDRAKK.

AND ALL LIFE SHALL KNEEL BEFORE MANDRAKK...

AND DIE.



SOUNDS LIKE
A CHALLENGE
TO ME,
ULTRAMAN.

AS HE SPEAKS, THE
VAST, SLOW MOTION
INVASION OF REALITY
BEGINS.

MACHINES BIGGER THAN
CITIES ARRIVE OUT OF THE
VOID AND ANCHOR
THEMSELVES TO THE
GARBAGE HEAPS OF LIMBO.



THEY
FORGET
US!
THEY
ABANDON US
ON A...A
COSMIC
DUMP!
AND...AND
THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH?

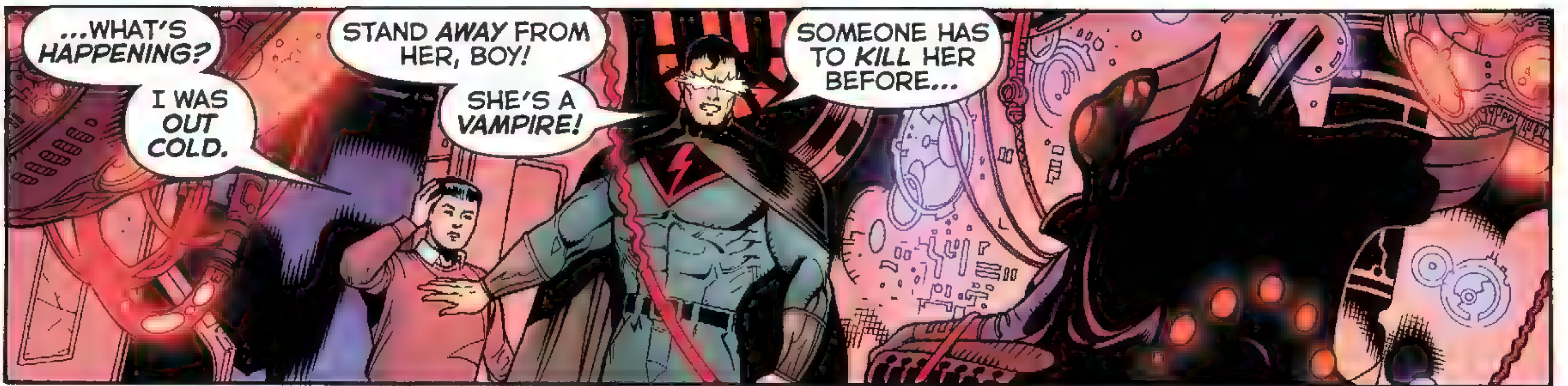


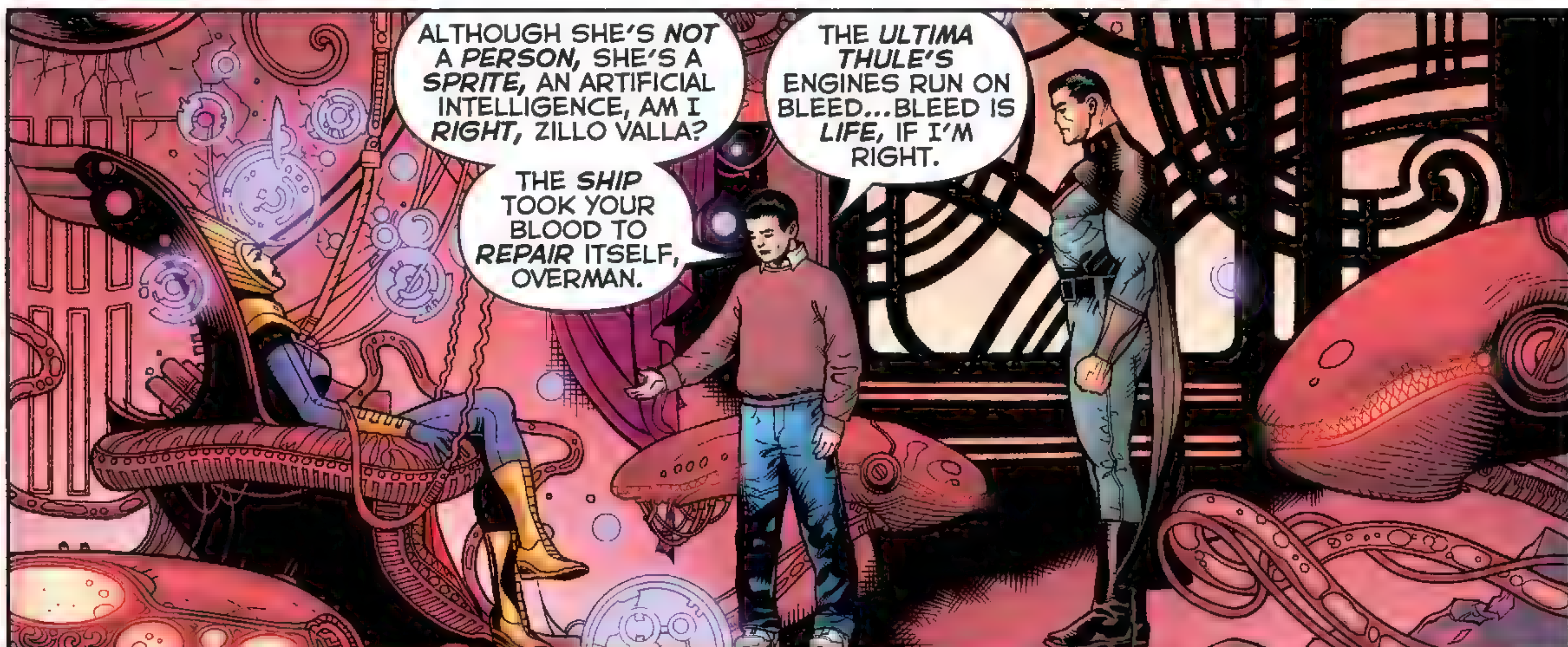
NOW THEY EVEN
WANT TO STEAL
OUR TRASH!

GIMME
THAT!



LIMBO
SAYS NO!

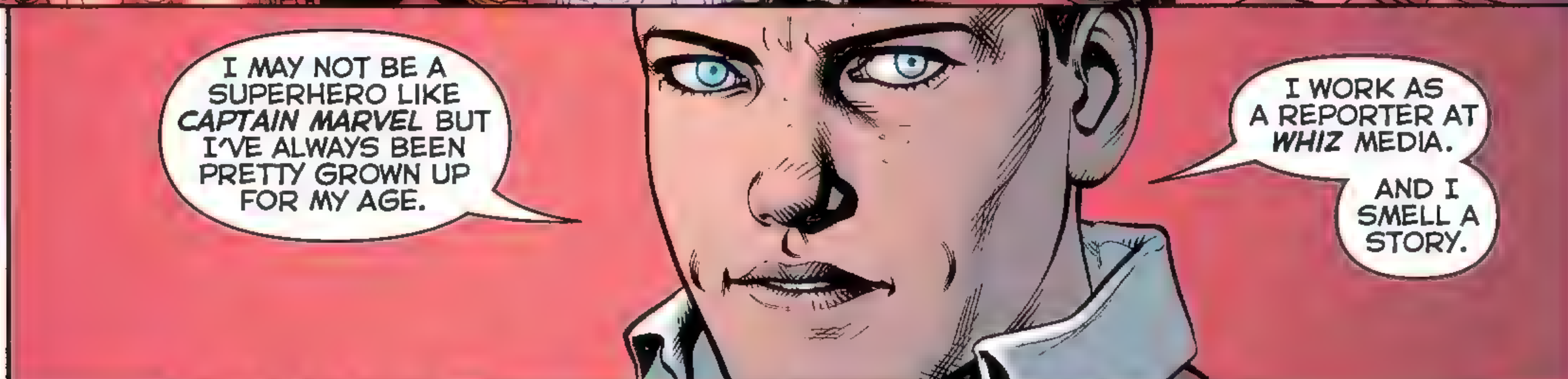




ALTHOUGH SHE'S NOT A PERSON, SHE'S A **SPRITE**, AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AM I RIGHT, ZILLO VALLA?

THE **ULTIMA THULE'S** ENGINES RUN ON BLOOD...BLEED IS LIFE, IF I'M RIGHT.

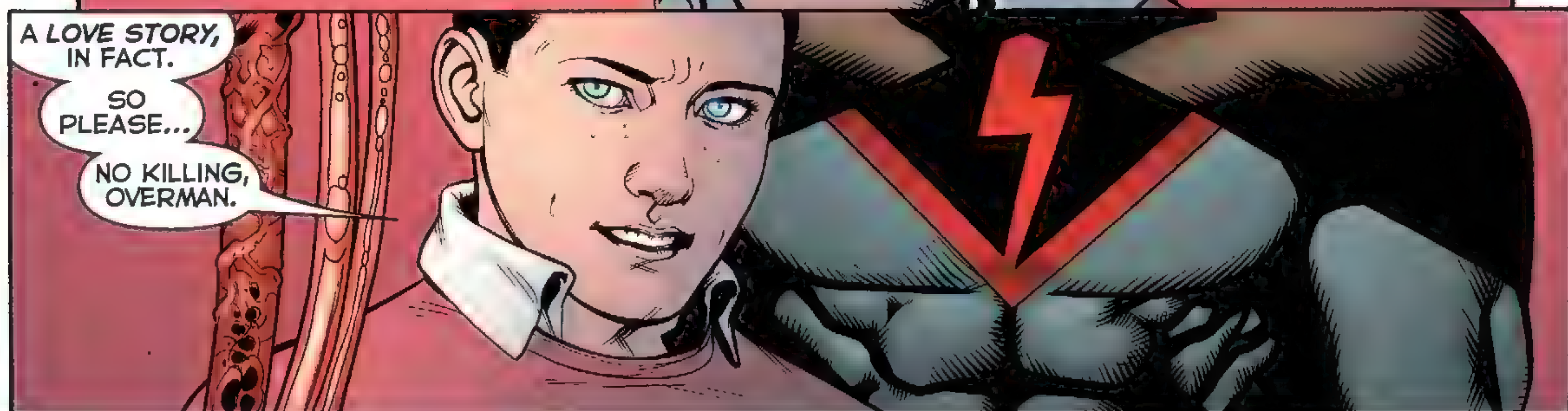
THE **SHIP** TOOK YOUR BLOOD TO REPAIR ITSELF, OVERMAN.



I MAY NOT BE A SUPERHERO LIKE **CAPTAIN MARVEL** BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY GROWN UP FOR MY AGE.

I WORK AS A REPORTER AT **WHIZ MEDIA**.

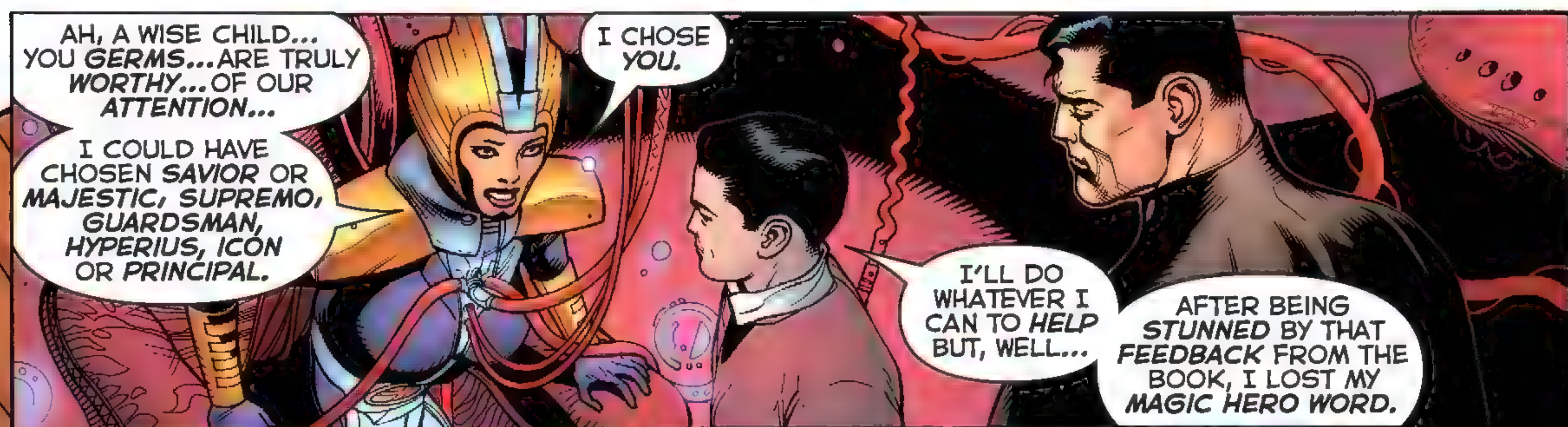
AND I SMELL A STORY.



A LOVE STORY, IN FACT.

SO PLEASE...

NO KILLING, OVERMAN.



AH, A WISE CHILD... YOU **GERMS**...ARE TRULY WORTHY...OF OUR ATTENTION...

I COULD HAVE CHOSEN **SAVIOR** OR **MAJESTIC**, **SUPREMO**, **GUARDSMAN**, **HYPERIUS**, **ICON** OR **PRINCIPAL**.

I CHOSE YOU.

I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP BUT, WELL...

AFTER BEING STUNNED BY THAT **FEEDBACK** FROM THE BOOK, I LOST MY **MAGIC HERO WORD**.

FEAR NOT: I HEAR ITS ECHO IN THE CHAMBERS OF YOUR GREAT **HEART**, **BILLY BATSON**.

TWO SYLLABLES, THEN THE **LIGHTNING**.

REPEAT AFTER ME...





SUPERMAN!

PROMISE
YOU'LL
REMEMBER
US?

EVEN IF
NO ONE ELSE
DOES?

I
WILL.

AND
THEY
WILL.

I GUESS
YOU CAN BE
A HERO
ANYWHERE,
MERRYMAN.

PHANTOM
ARMIES CLASH
ON THE
BATTLEFIELDS
OF LIMBO.

THIS STRANGE,
LAST OUTPOST
OF EXISTENCE.

THE
FORGOTTEN
VERSUS THE
YET TO BE.

LIKE SOME
HALF-
REMEMBERED
DREAM.

CAPTAIN
ADAM!

THESE
PEOPLE NEED
OUR HELP!

I'M
TRYING.
I...

...TRYING
TO CONTACT
THIS MONITOR
MIND...

...TRANSPARENT
VOID...ETERNAL...
WE'RE SO
SMALL...

...YET SO
SIGNIFICANT...

HOW
CAN IT
MATTER SO
MUCH?

IT DOES
TO ME!

ALL THE RULES
OF EXISTENCE ARE
BEING BROKEN.

THE TIME HAS COME
FOR EACH OF US TO
FACE THE APOCALYPSE
IN HIS OWN WAY.



LOIS.

HOLD ON.



I'M
TAKING THE
ULTIMA
THULE!

I'LL SPREAD
MY NEW GOSPEL
FROM WORLD TO
WORLD, IN
FLAMES.



YOU'LL HAVE TO GO
THROUGH ME FIRST, AND
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT
MEANS.

IF WE MIX
OUR MATTER AND
ANTIMATTER
PARTICLES...

WE
ANNIHILATE
ONE
ANOTHER.



SO LET'S COMMIT THE
ULTIMATE CRIME, YOU
AND ME TOGETHER,
EH?

I'VE WAITED
LONG ENOUGH TO
SMASH THAT
SMUG, HANDSOME
FACE OF YOURS
TO A PULP.

YOUR WOMAN
WILL THROW UP
WHEN SHE SEES
YOU!

SURE.

I'VE
HEARD IT
ALL BEFORE,
TOUGH
GUY.



HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO WARN YOU, ULTRAMAN?

PLAY.

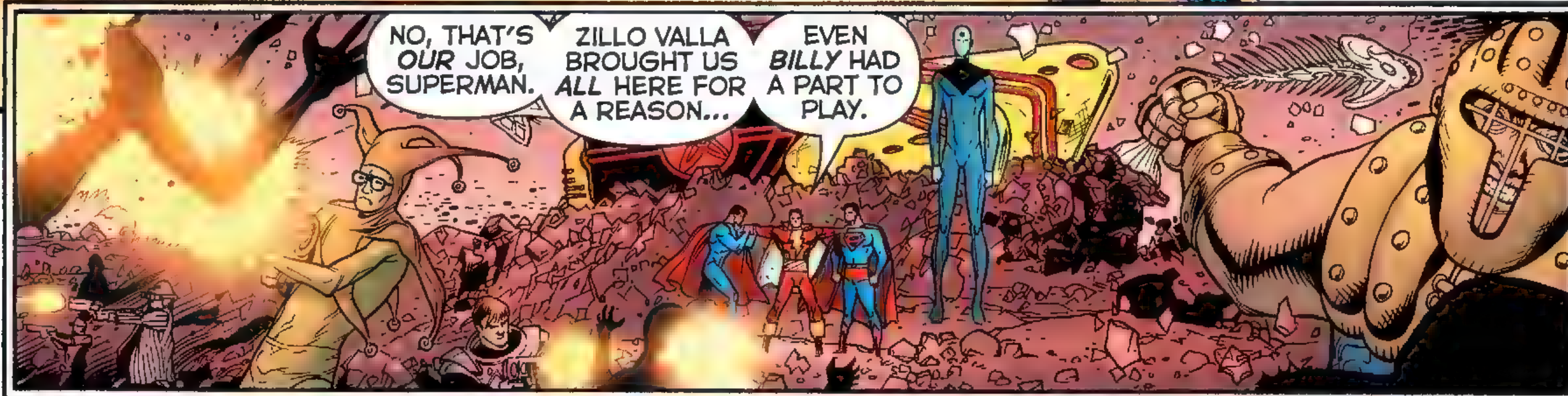
NICE!

GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, MARVEL.

HOW'S THE POWER SITUATION?

THESE ARE BRAVE PEOPLE...

...BUT THEY CAN'T HOLD BACK A FULL-SCALE INVASION FROM BEYOND REALITY!



NO, THAT'S OUR JOB, SUPERMAN.

ZILLO VALLA BROUGHT US ALL HERE FOR A REASON...

EVEN BILLY HAD A PART TO PLAY.



RRR!

EVEN ULTRAMAN.

THOSE SPACE ANGELS, THE MONITOR-BEINGS WE SAW IN THE BOOK.

THEY MADE A WEAPON TO USE AGAINST MANDRAKK, REMEMBER?

THAT BIZARRE STORY.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND.

WARN THE MULTIVERSE, MARVEL!



CAPTAIN ADAM!

WE NEED YOU NOW!

COME BACK TO US, ALLEN!

AH.

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS LET GO.

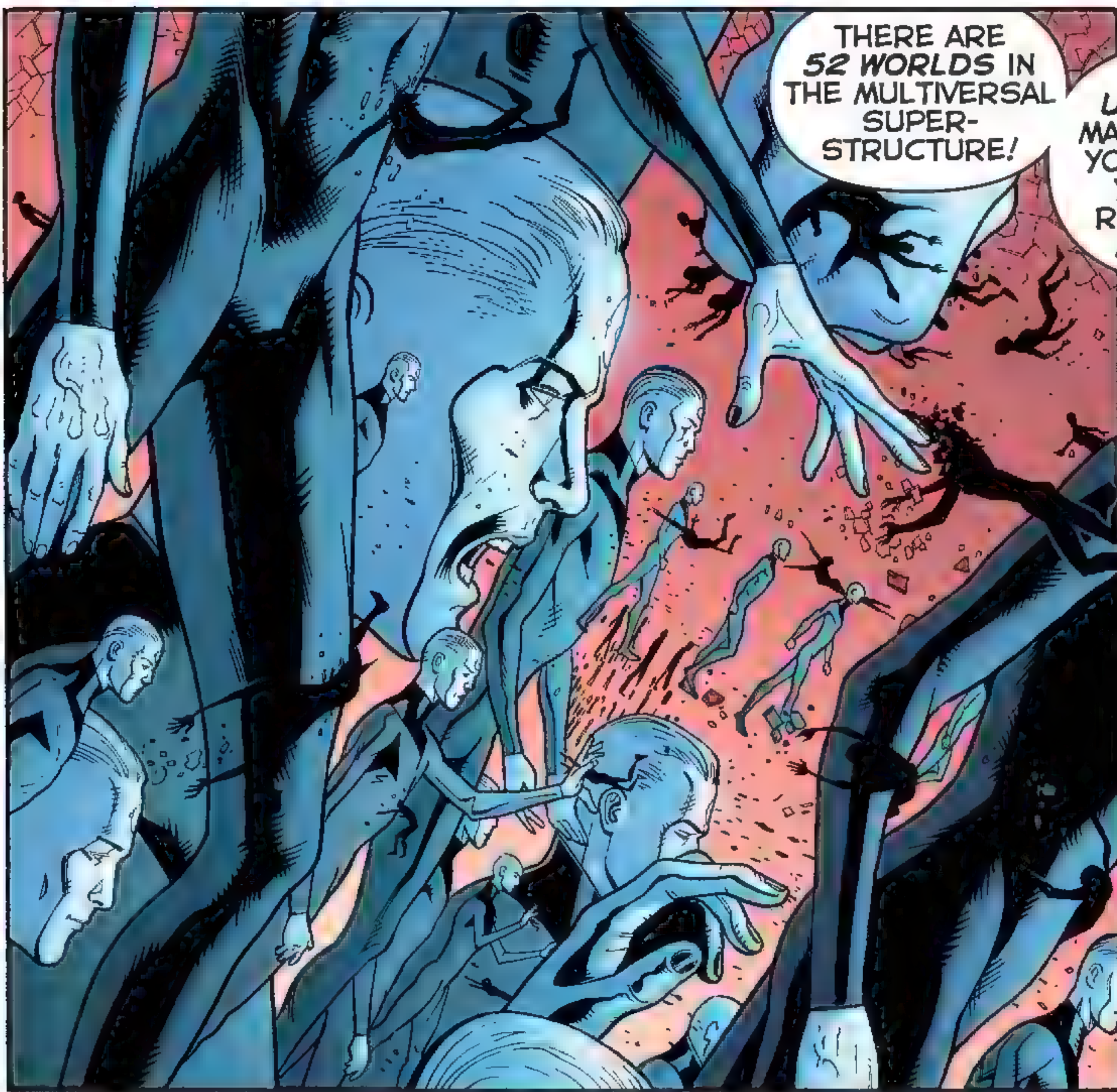
LET GO OF LIMITS, EXPECTATIONS...



AND BE A NEW ADAM.

THERE.

...ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE QUANTUM SUPER-POSITION AS USED DEFENSIVELY.



THERE ARE 52 WORLDS IN THE MULTIVERSAL SUPER-STRUCTURE!

TAKE THE ULTIMA THULE, MARVEL! I'LL GET YOU THE ENERGY YOU NEED TO RETURN TO THE MULTIVERSE.

WARN EVERYONE, LIKE PAUL REVERE!

TELL THEM MANDRAKK IS COMING!

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO PLUG THE HOLE IN FOREVER!



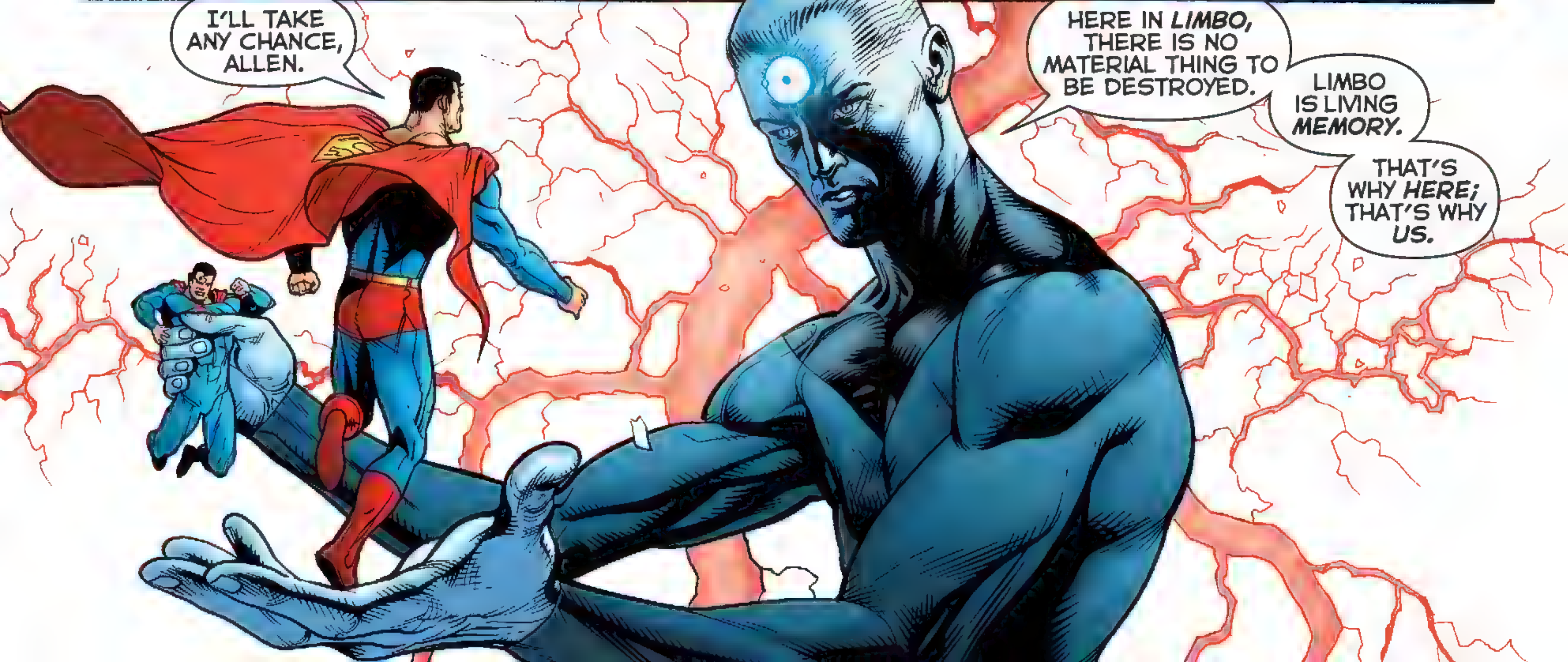
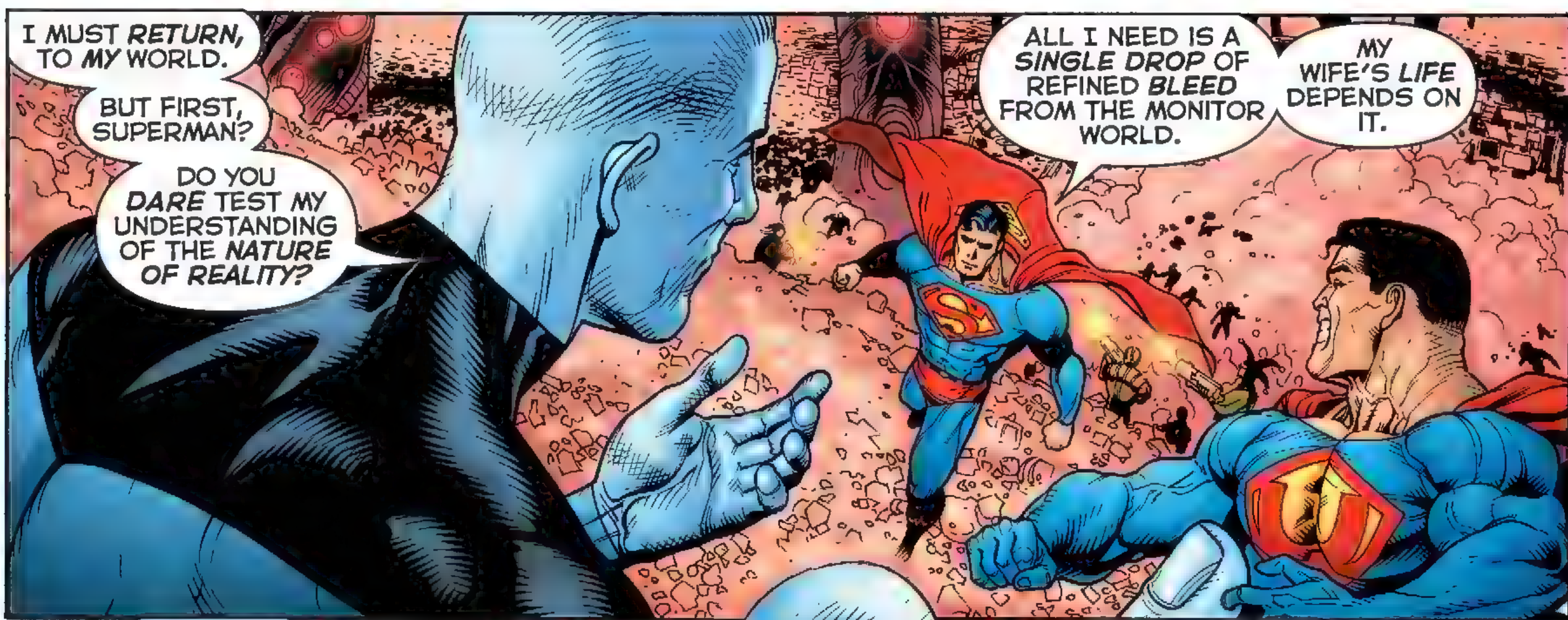
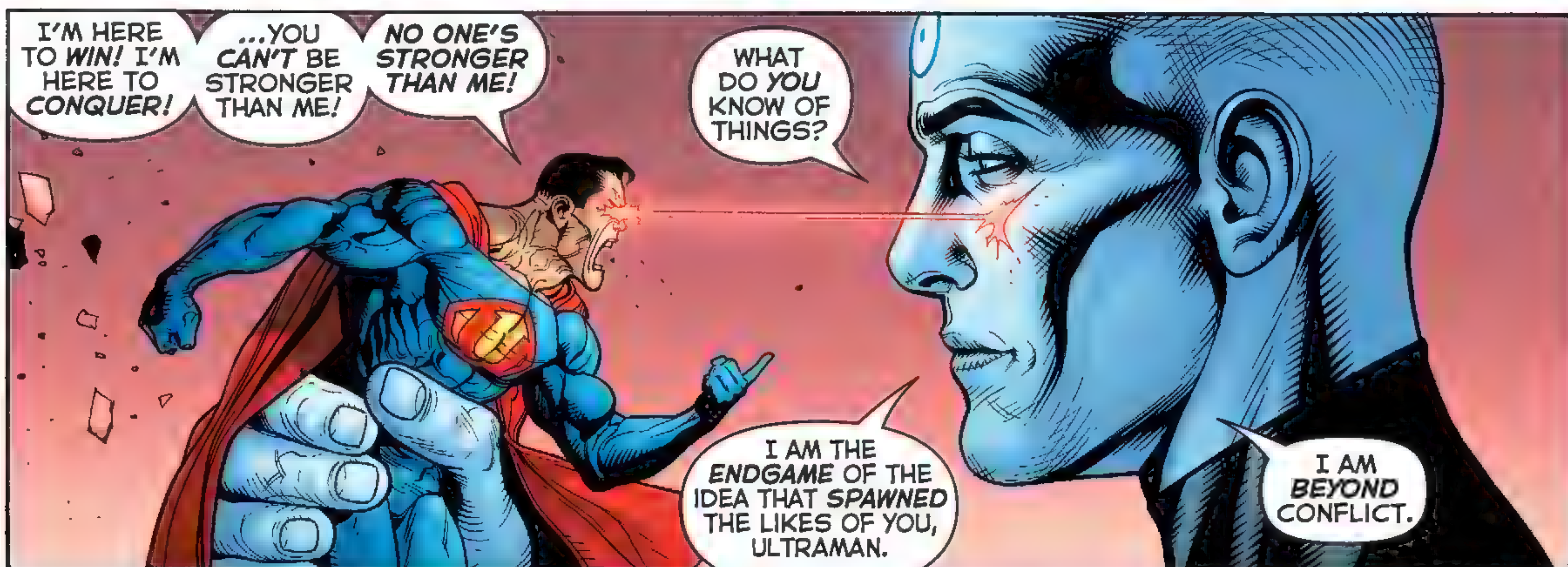
...A THOUGHT ROBOT ACTIVATED BY THE TREMENDOUS ENERGIES UNLEASHED DURING COLLISIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL OPPOSING QUALITIES.

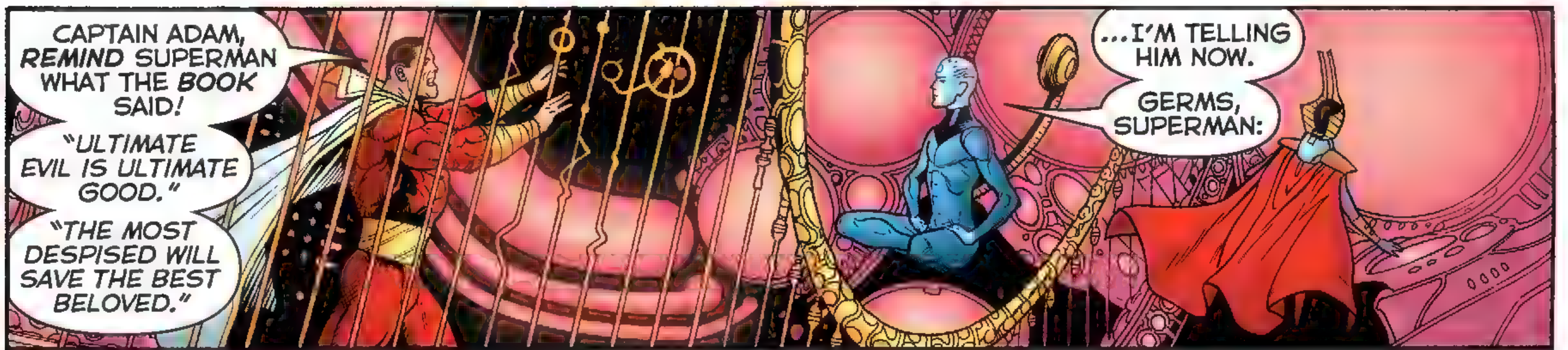
A NEW FUSION PROCESS POWERED BY...

"DUALITIES"?



NO. THERE ARE NO DUALITIES.





...RUSTED
EYELIDS... SPLIT
APART.

THE DRIFTING
SMOKE OF
GALAXIES, THE
VEILS OF MATTER
PART AND CLEAR.

EVERYTHING
IS RINGING.

LIKE COSMIC
ALARM BELLS.

AN ULTIMATE
S.O.S.

FROM A
DIRECTION THAT
HAS NO NAME
COMES A SOUND
LIKE BREATHING.

THE WHOLE
CONTINUUM...
TREMBLES, AS IF
CRADLED.

AND THERE'S A
PRESENCE.

AS IF I COULD
REACH OUT AND
TOUCH SOMETHING
IMMENSE BEYOND
UNDERSTANDING.

AND THERE.

THAT'S HOW
LIMBO LOOKS
FROM HERE.

WHEREVER
HERE IS.

SCALE.

SPACE.

TIME.

EVERYTHING
IS
DIFFERENT
NOW.

EVERYTHING
IS MORE
PROFOUND.

MORE
MEANINGFUL.

THE THREAT TO
THE MULTIVERSE
IS TOTAL, THE
STAKES
ABSOLUTE.

EACH STEP
GUIDED BY
INESCAPABLE
DESTINY.

EACH
FOOTFALL HEAVY
WITH IMPENDING
DOOM.

DAX NOVU'S
FINAL GIFT
BEFORE WE...
LOST HIM... WAS
A LIVING
WEAPON.

THE
RADIANT ONE'S
GREATEST
INVENTION.

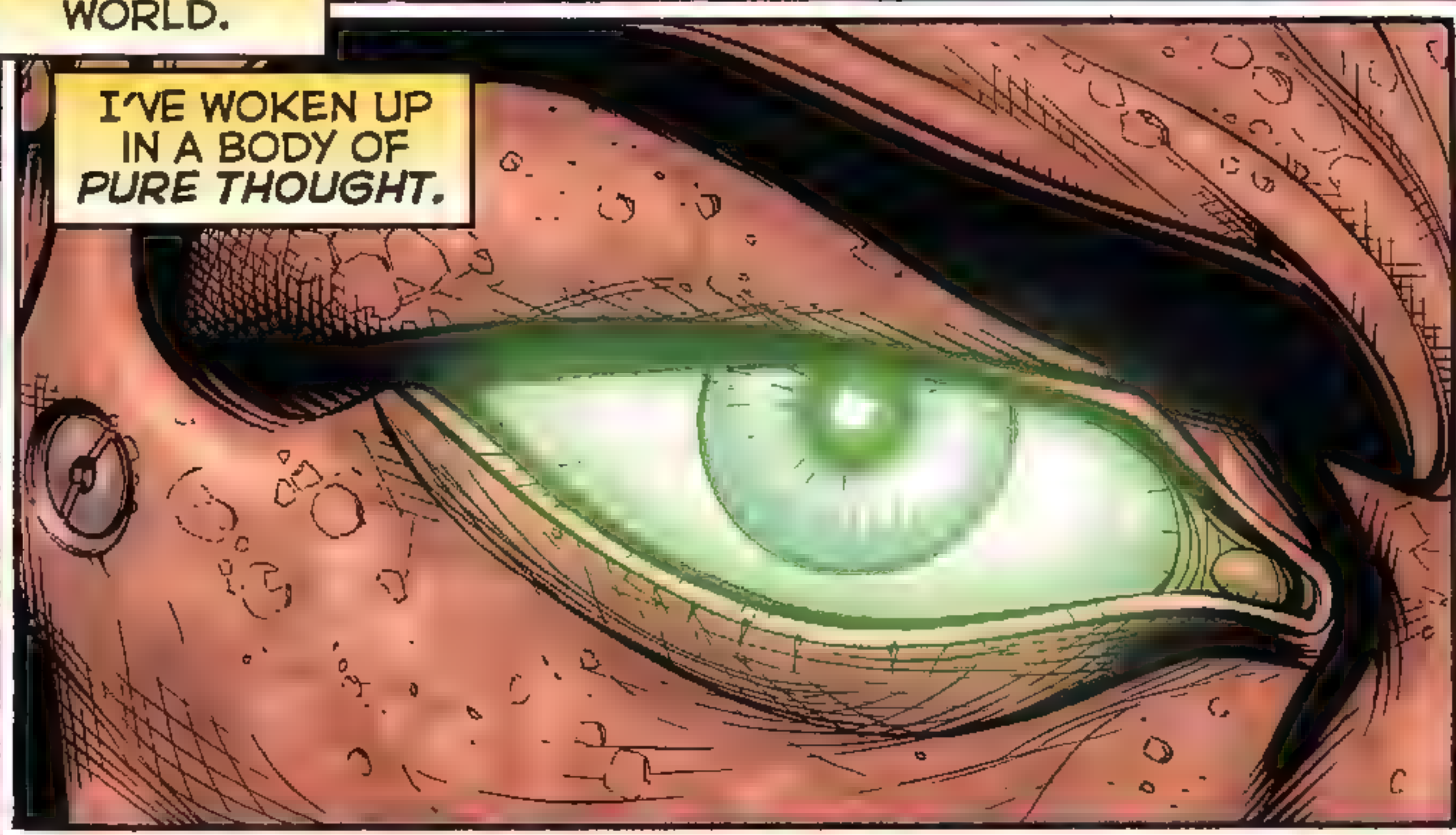
A THOUGHT-
ROBOT, CAPABLE OF
ADAPTING INSTANTLY
TO COUNTER ANY
FUTURE THREAT.

A SENTINEL-
SUIT DESIGNED
FOR A SINGLE
PURPOSE.

TO PROTECT ALL
EXISTENCE AGAINST
THE ULTIMATE
ENEMY.

ALL
THIS.

THIS IS THEIR
WORLD.



I'VE WOKEN UP
IN A BODY OF
PURE THOUGHT.

THE BLANK.

THE NIL.

THE GONE.

THIS IS WHERE
FORM AND MEANING
SURRENDER TO THE
OVERVOID.

...WE
MONITORS HAVE
5,555 DIFFERENT
WORDS FOR
NOTHING.

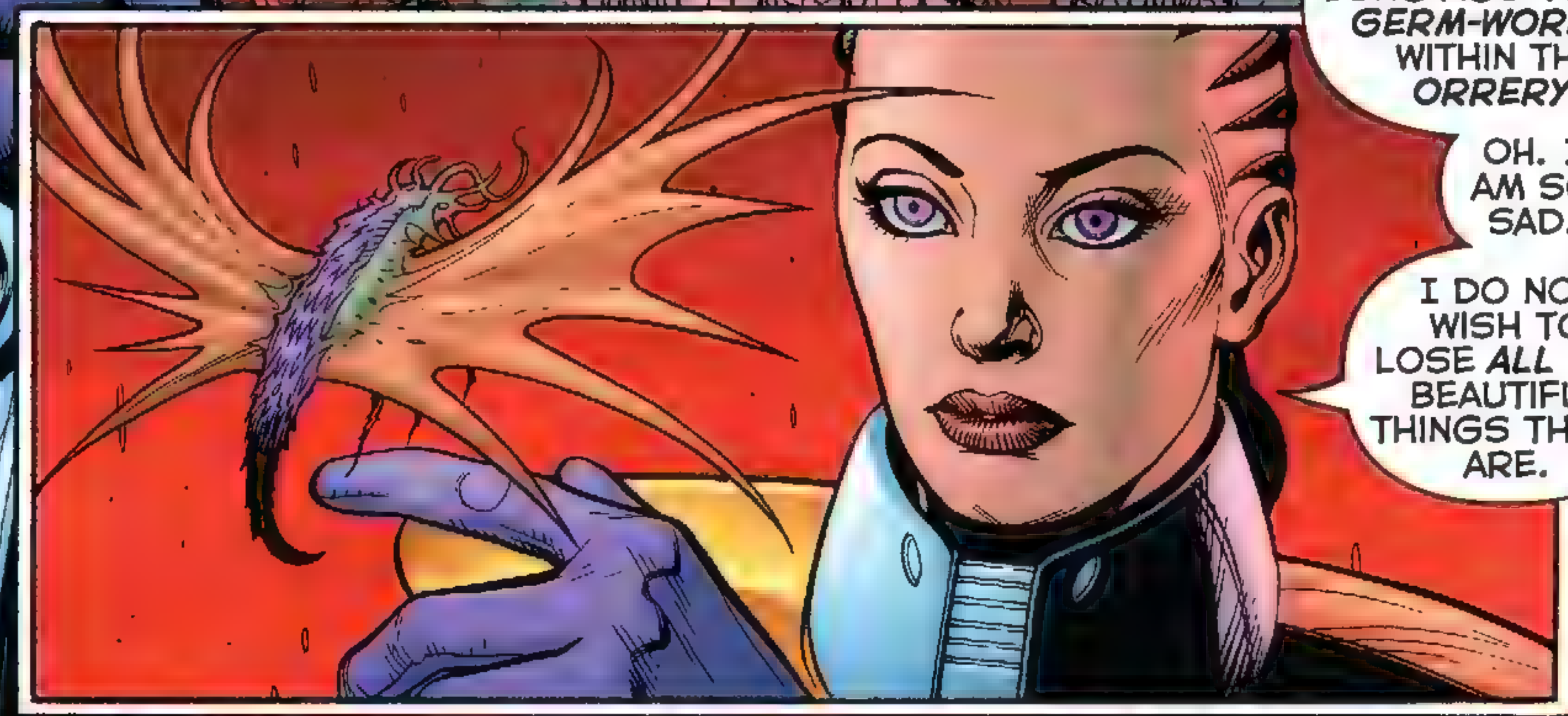
FOLLOW ME
THROUGH THE
FUNERAL GARDENS
OF YIVAROTH AND
I'LL TEACH YOU
SOME OF THEM.

I AM
WEEJA DELL:
MONITRIX EARTH
DESIGNATE-6.

LOVER OF NIX
UOTAN, EXILED
LONG AGO TO THE
GERM-WORLDS
WITHIN THE
ORRERY.

OH. I
AM SO
SAD.

I DO NOT
WISH TO
LOSE ALL THE
BEAUTIFUL
THINGS THERE
ARE.



THESE ARE THE BEINGS I SAW IN THE BOOK OF LIMBO.

BUT NOW LAST DAY HAS COME.

FOR IF YOU HAVE WOKEN, HE TOO IS NEAR.

THE ENEMY.

ONCE NUMBERLESS AND FACELESS, UNTIL EXPOSURE TO THE STRUGGLES OF HUMAN LIFE CHANGED THEIR ESSENTIAL NATURE.

UNTIL NARRATIVES FORMED AROUND THEM, LIKE CRYSTALS IN SOLUTION.

INCREDIBLE.

I'M WALKING AMONG PRIMAL FORMS IN A FUNDAMENTAL WORLD.

... "THE MOST DESPISED WILL SAVE THE BEST BELOVED."

SEE?

NIX UOTAN WAS SENT TO DIE UNJUSTLY IN THE GERM WORLDS!

HOW CAN OUR JUDGMENT BE WRONG?

THEN NOTHING MAKES SENSE ANYMORE.

THE SCAPEGOAT IN A DARK DESIGN!

GURGLING UNDERNEATH OUR FEET, PRECIOUS BLEED IS SIPHONED AWAY TOWARDS A GRIM, BASALT MONUMENT.

OURS IS THE GUILT! OURS THE RESPONSIBILITY!

OURS THE DARKEST SECRET OF EXISTENCE!

I FEEL A CHILL AS THE STORY GROWS INTO PLACE AROUND ME.

ON DOORS OF BLACK IRON, A DOOMSDAY COUNTDOWN REACHES ZERO.

AND I SEE NOW.

ALL OF CREATION, IN
A SHATTERED JAR.

BILLIONS OF WORLDS,
TRILLIONS OF LIVES.

EVERYTHING I'VE
EVER KNOWN,
CARED FOR,
FOUGHT FOR...

AND IT'S
DYING.

THEY'RE
DRAINING IT
DRY.

WE
SHUNNED
HIM.

WE LOCKED HIM
IN THE PIT, IN
THE SEPULCHRE
OF THE ABYSS.

BECAUSE
HE SHOWED TO
US OUR TRUE
FACES.

GREAT
KRYPTON.

THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE
IS THE PREY OF
CELESTIAL PARASITES!

VAMPIRE
GODS!

THE ULTIMATE
SECRET
OF BEING IS
REVEALED: NOW
COMES THE
CONFLICT, THE
FINAL CRISIS!

NIX UOTAN
WOULD HAVE
FOUGHT
AGAINST US
BUT I TOOK
CARE OF
HIM!

THE
MASTER,
MY BROTHER,
WAKES!

MASSIVE BLIND
DOORS CREAK
AND YAWN WIDE.

THIS IS IT.

THE HOUR
HAS COME:
NIGHT FALLS
ACROSS
CREATION...

THE FIRST OUTCAST
RISES FROM REEKING
SHADOWS OF NEGLECT,
SELF-LOATHING AND
RAGE, SPEAKING MY
NAME AS I SPEAK HIS...

MANDRAKK.

I HOLD
THE ELIXIR,
SUPERMAN!

THAT WHICH
CANNOT BE
HELD OR BOTTLED
OR CONSUMED---
EXCEPT BY US!

AND ALL YOU
HAVE TO DO IS
TAKE IT FROM
ME!



I'M INSIDE A
SELF-ASSEMBLING
HYPER STORY!

COME
CLOSER!

THERE'S
POISON IN
MY EYES!

AND IT'S TRYING
ITS BEST TO
DESTROY ME.

ALL OF
YOU!
FIND
SHELTER IF
YOU CAN!

I'LL
DEAL WITH
THIS!

AND YET I'VE
NEVER KNOWN
SUCH PERFECT
CERTAINTY.

THIS IS MY
REASON TO
BE.

MY PURPOSE
IS SIMPLY TO
STOP HIM.

ARRRRHH

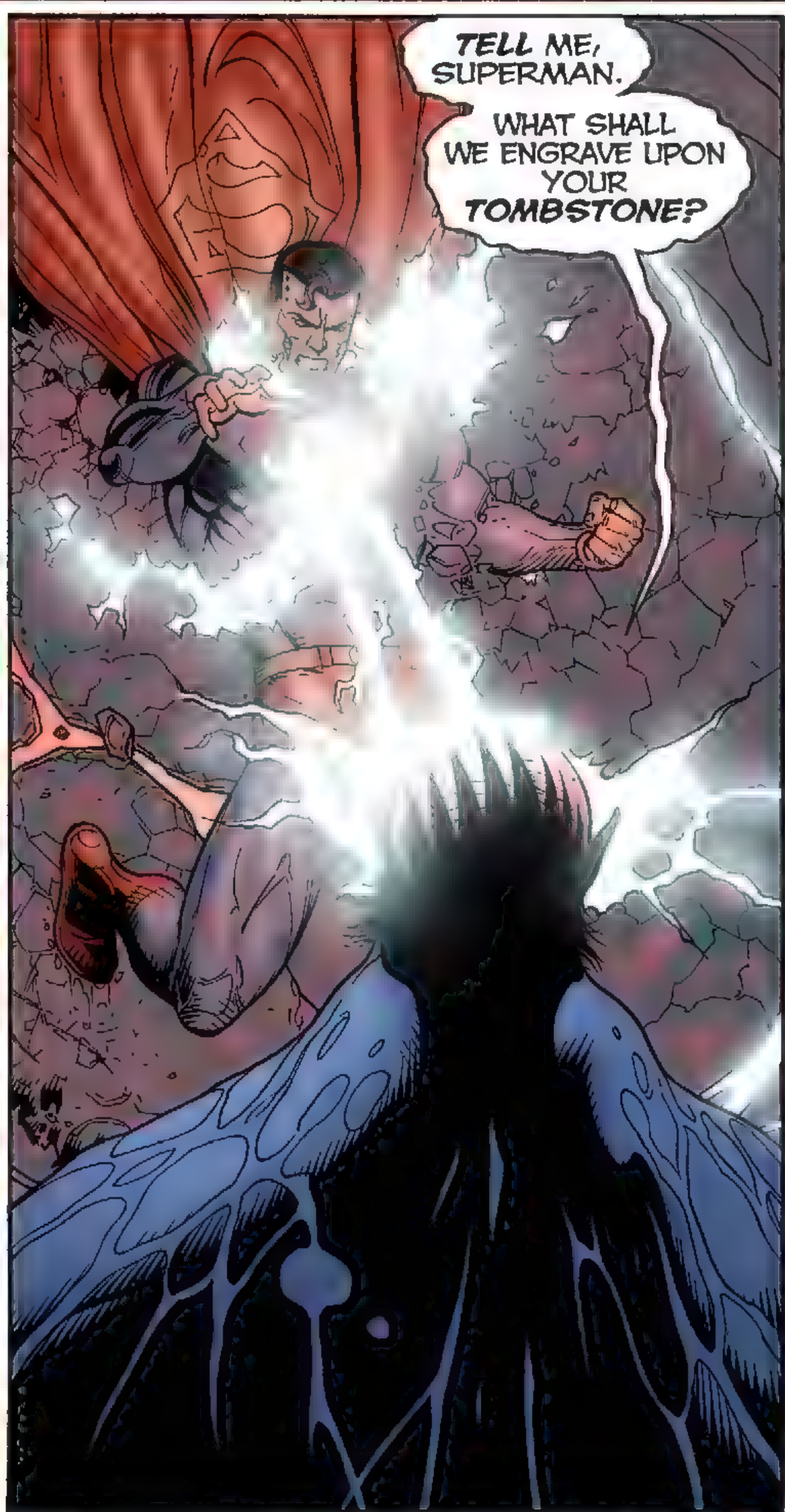
CAN
YOU FEEL
IT?
THE BLOOD
OF 52
UNIVERSES.
THE HEAT
OF TEN BILLION
SUNS!



I WAITED TO
MEET YOU. TO
DESTROY YOU AT
LAST.

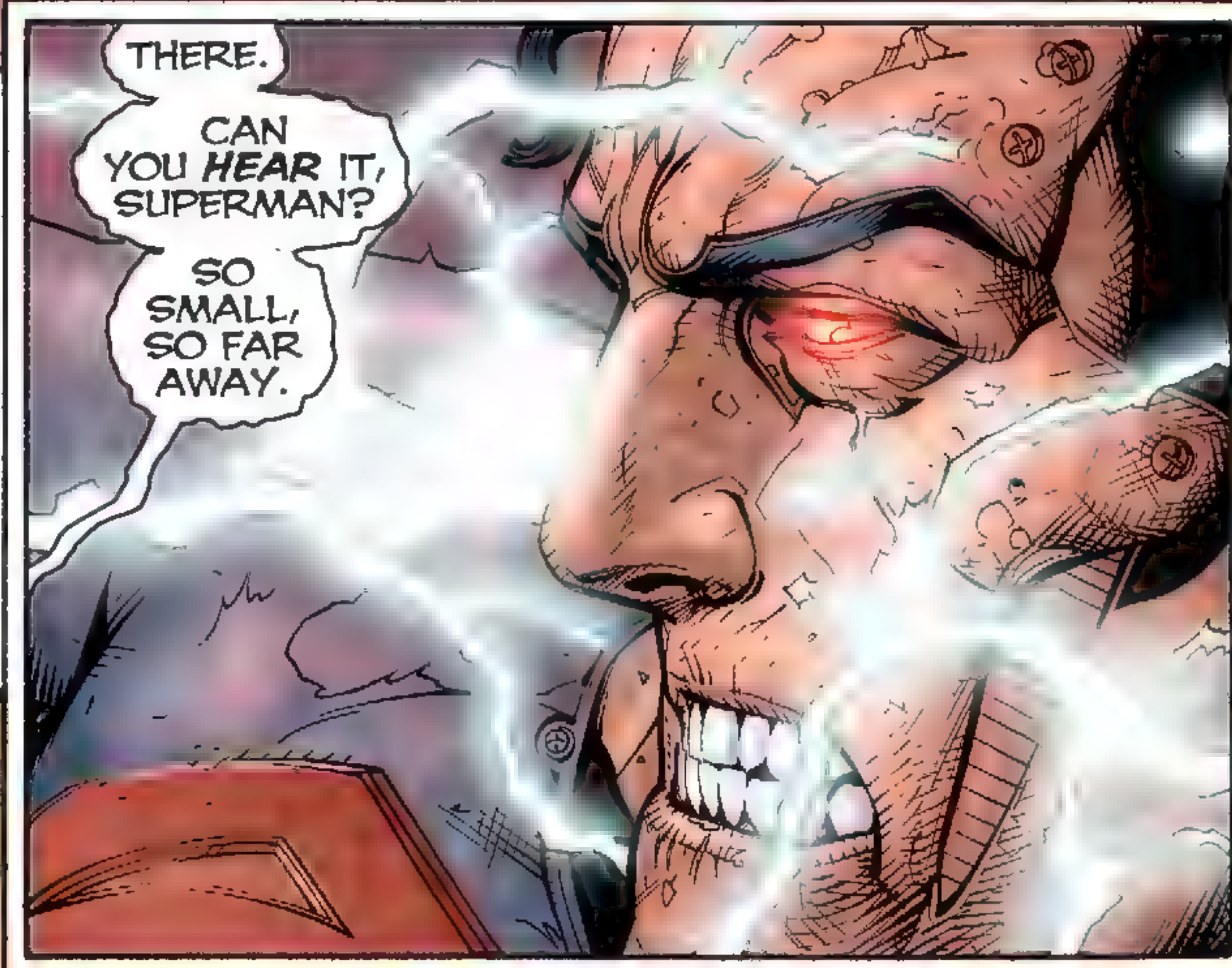
HEHEHAHAHA

YOUR
COSMIC ARMOR
IS NO MATCH
FOR MY ETERNAL
POWER!



TELL ME,
SUPERMAN.

WHAT SHALL
WE ENGRAVE UPON
YOUR
TOMBSTONE?



THERE.

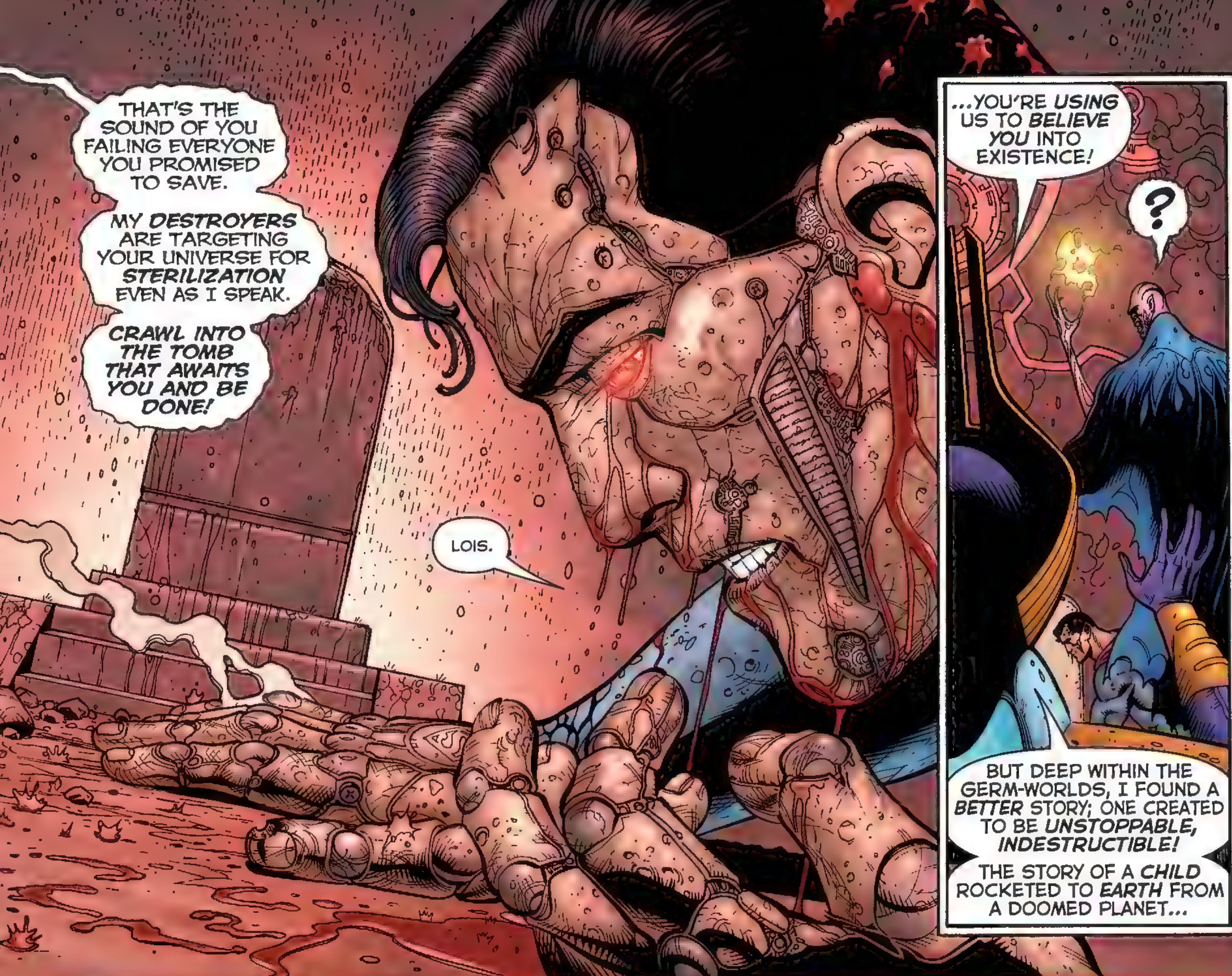
CAN
YOU **HEAR** IT,
SUPERMAN?

SO
SMALL,
SO FAR
AWAY.

THE SOUND OF
THE SPACE
BETWEEN NOW AND
HER FINAL
HEARTBEAT!



LOIS.



THAT'S THE
SOUND OF YOU
FAILING EVERYONE
YOU PROMISED
TO SAVE.

MY DESTROYERS
ARE TARGETING
YOUR UNIVERSE FOR
STERILIZATION
EVEN AS I SPEAK.

**CRAWL INTO
THE TOMB
THAT AWAITS
YOU AND BE
DONE!**

LOIS.

...YOU'RE USING
US TO BELIEVE
YOU INTO
EXISTENCE!

?

BUT DEEP WITHIN THE
GERM-WORLDS, I FOUND A
BETTER STORY; ONE CREATED
TO BE **UNSTOPPABLE,**
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

THE STORY OF A CHILD
ROCKETED TO EARTH FROM
A DOOMED PLANET...



BE STILL!

*

NO.

NO,
WHAT HAVE
I DONE?

I KNOW
THAT FACE.

THAT
VOICE.

ZILLO VALLA?

MONSTER!
IGNORANT
MONSTER!

SHE LOVED
YOU! SHE GAVE
HER ALL TO
SAVE YOU AND
NOW LOOK!

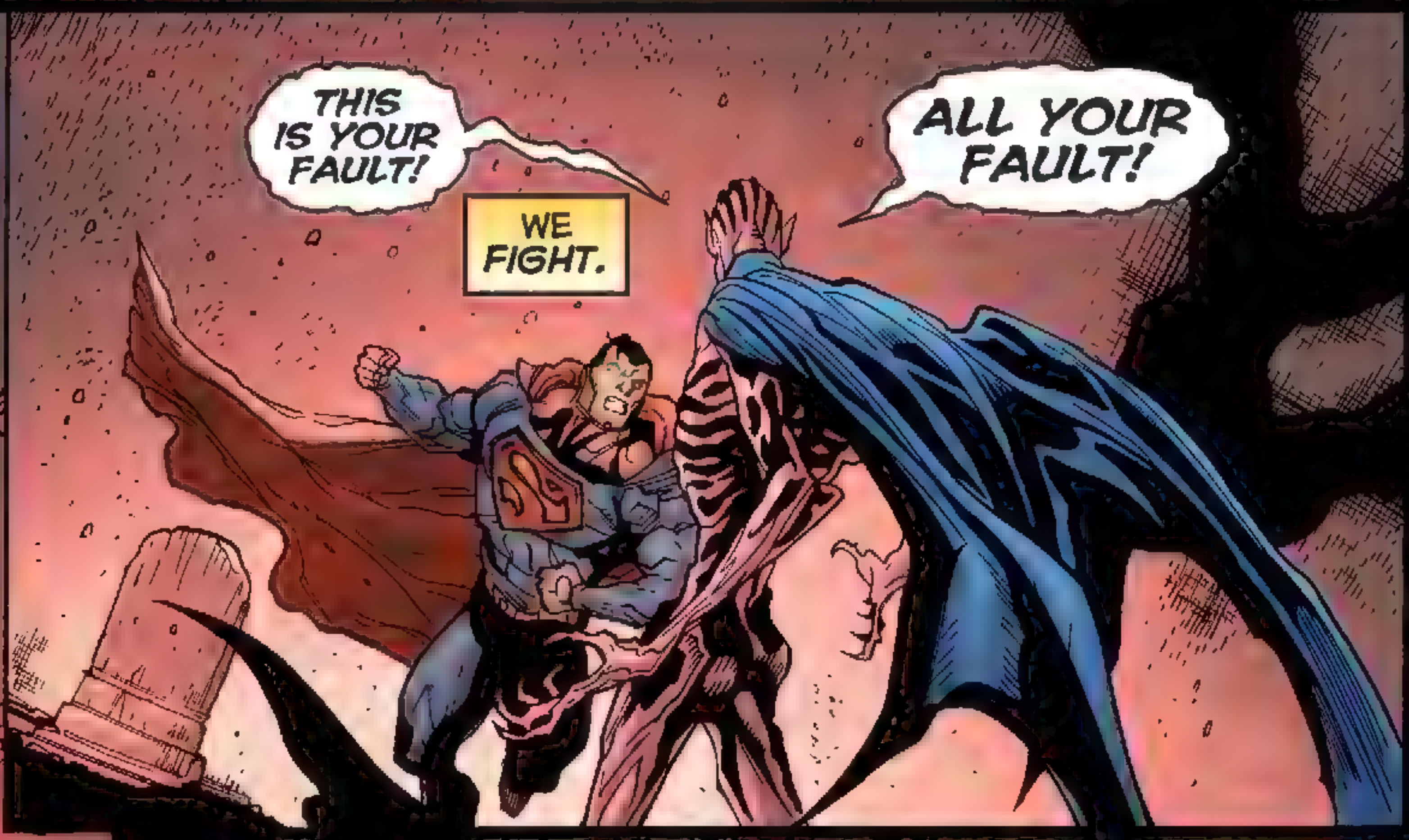
DEAR
ZILLO
VALLA...





MANDRAKK!

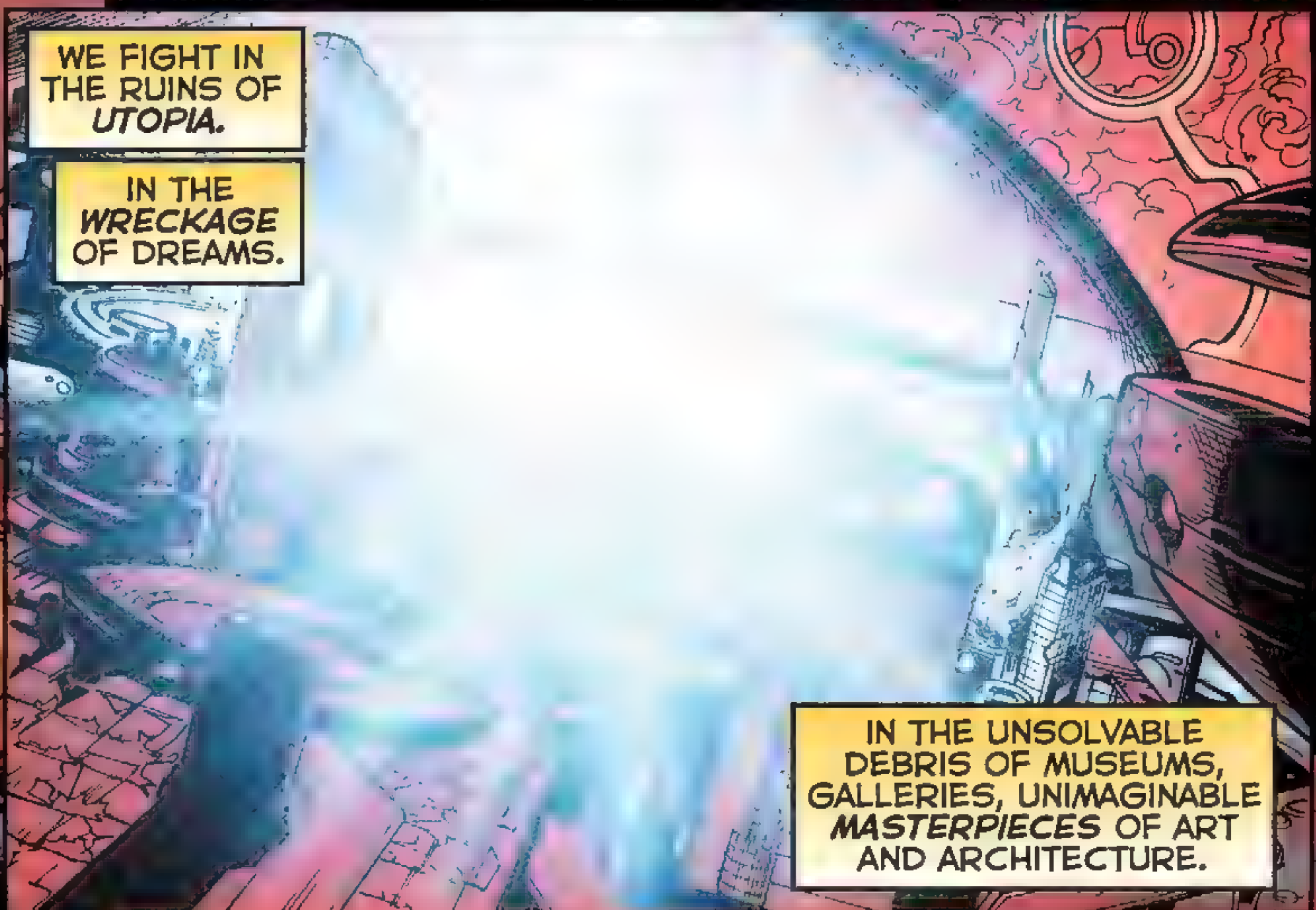
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT; THE INEXORABLE LOGIC OF A LIVING STORY DRIVES US TO ITS CONCLUSION.



THIS IS YOUR FAULT!

WE FIGHT.

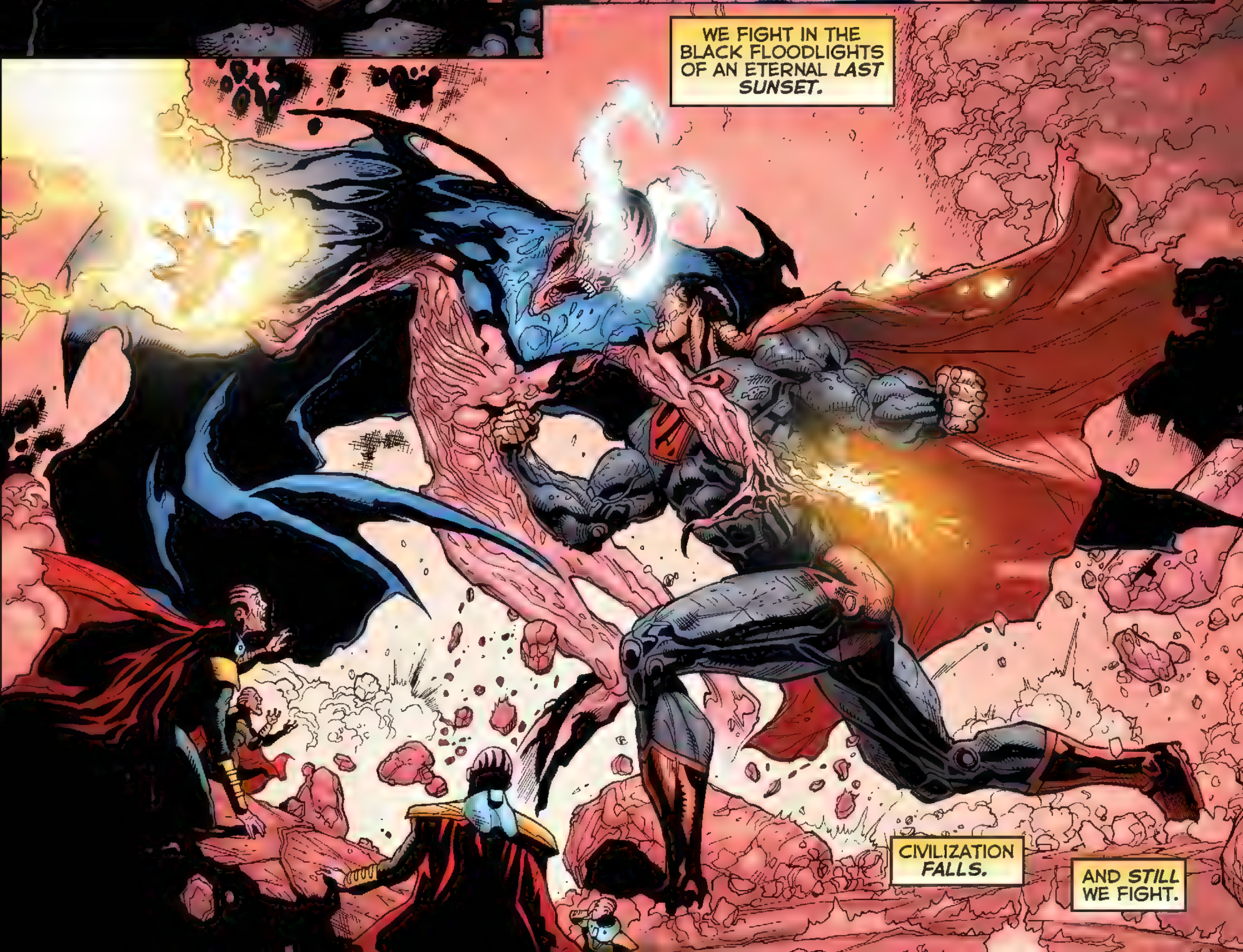
ALL YOUR FAULT!



WE FIGHT IN THE RUINS OF UTOPIA.

IN THE WRECKAGE OF DREAMS.

IN THE UNSOLVABLE DEBRIS OF MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, UNIMAGINABLE MASTERPIECES OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE.



WE FIGHT IN THE BLACK FLOODLIGHTS OF AN ETERNAL LAST SUNSET.

CIVILIZATION FALLS.

AND STILL WE FIGHT.

THE STRONGER
HE BECOMES,
THE STRONGER
I BECOME TO
OPPOSE HIM.

AND VICE
VERSA.



LET
ME AT MY
PREY!

YOU...
WILL...
NEVER!

GET...
PAST...
ME.



I VOWED TO
PRESERVE LIFE,
NO MATTER WHAT.

LET ME
FEED AND FEED
UNTIL NOTHING
REMAINS BUT
MANDRAKK!

BUT SOMEWHERE
INSIDE, I HEAR THE
VOICE OF ULTRAMAN,
RUTHLESS,
PRAGMATIC...



BLOATED
AND ALONE
BENEATH A
SKYFUL OF
MURDERED
STARS!

"MANDRAKK,"
HE SAYS...



"MANDRAKK IS
THE OPPOSITE
OF LIFE."



IS
THAT
IT?
HEHEHAHA

TRY
THIS...

YOU'RE THE
PART OF MONITOR
THAT FELT
CONTAMINATED BY
THE MULTIVERSE!

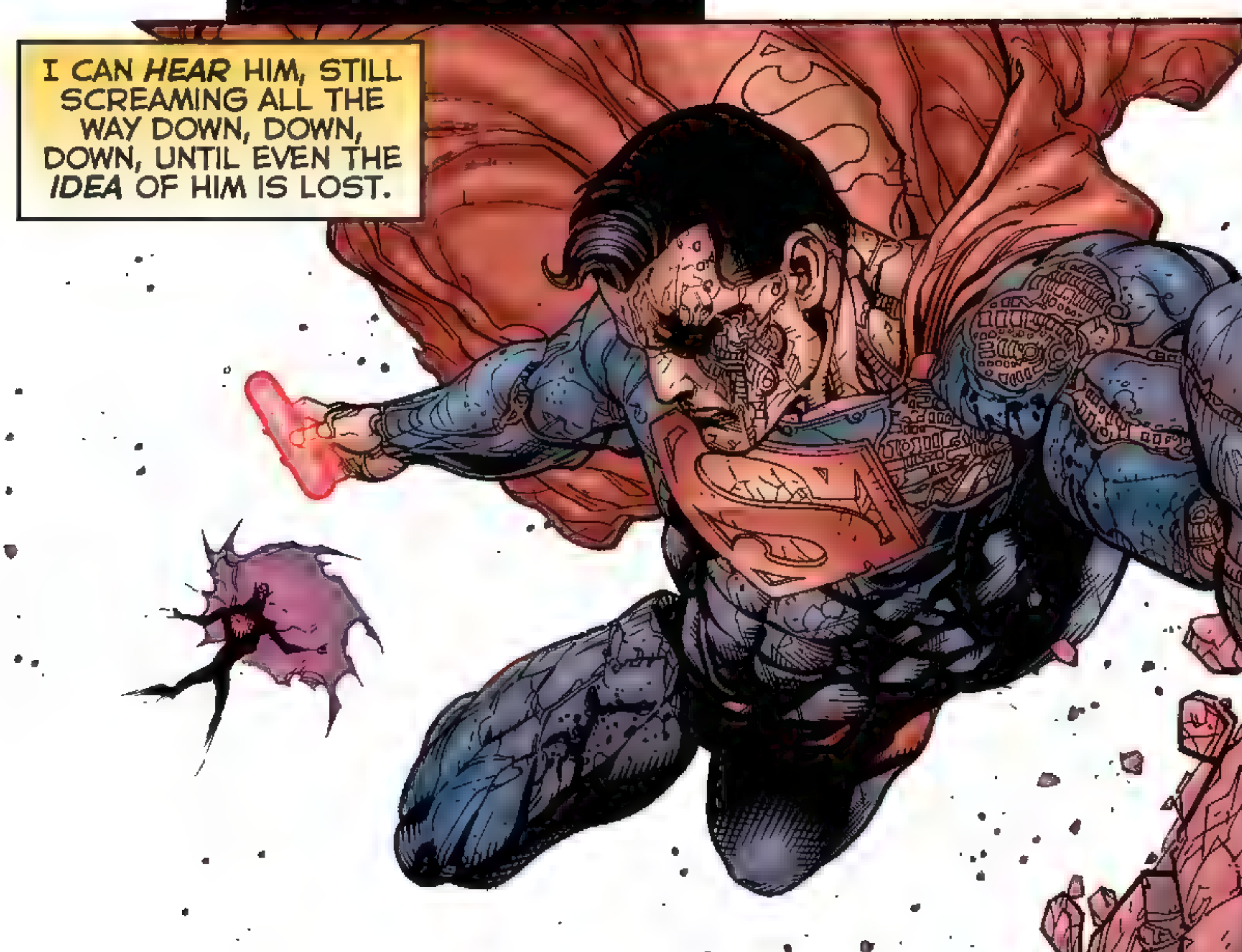
ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?



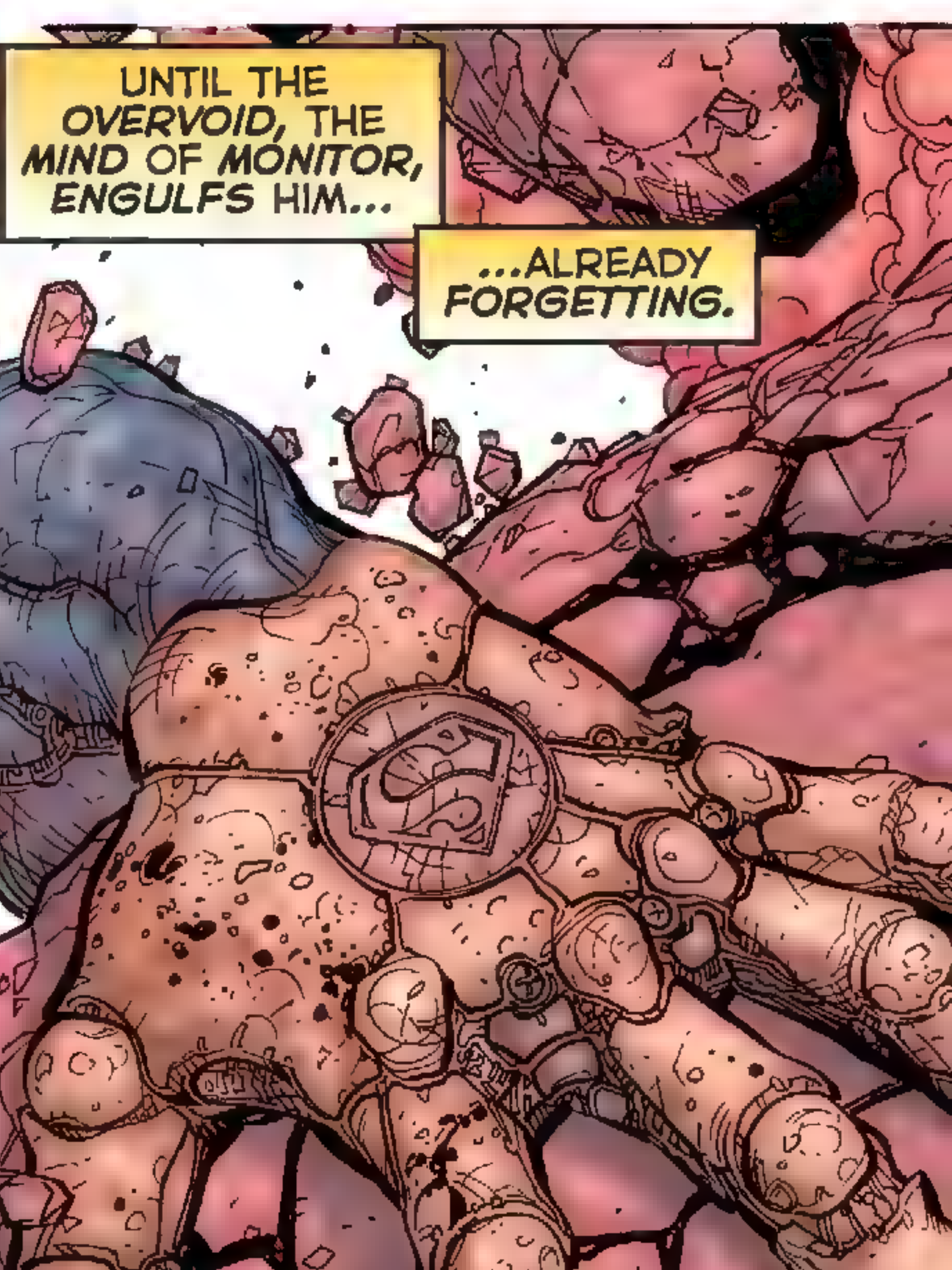
YOU
WERE DAX
NOVU!

YOU WERE
THE BEST OF
THEM!

NO.

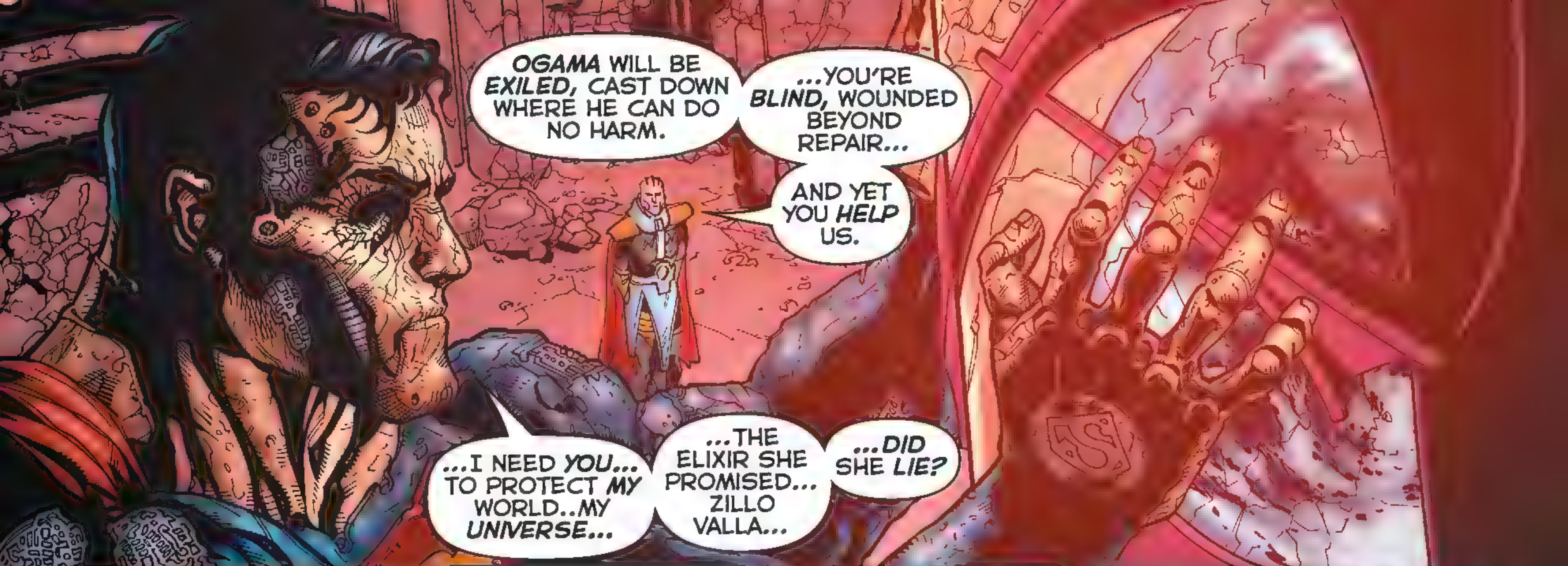


I CAN HEAR HIM, STILL
SCREAMING ALL THE
WAY DOWN, DOWN,
DOWN, UNTIL EVEN THE
IDEA OF HIM IS LOST.



UNTIL THE
OVERVOID, THE
MIND OF MONITOR,
ENGULFS HIM...

...ALREADY
FORGETTING.



OGAMA WILL BE
EXILED, CAST DOWN
WHERE HE CAN DO
NO HARM.

...YOU'RE
BLIND, WOUNDED
BEYOND
REPAIR...

AND YET
YOU HELP
US.

...I NEED YOU...
TO PROTECT MY
WORLD..MY
UNIVERSE...

...THE
ELIXIR SHE
PROMISED...
ZILLO
VALLA...

...DID
SHE LIE?



BLEED CANNOT BE HELD
OR BOTTLED EXCEPT
HERE, BY US.

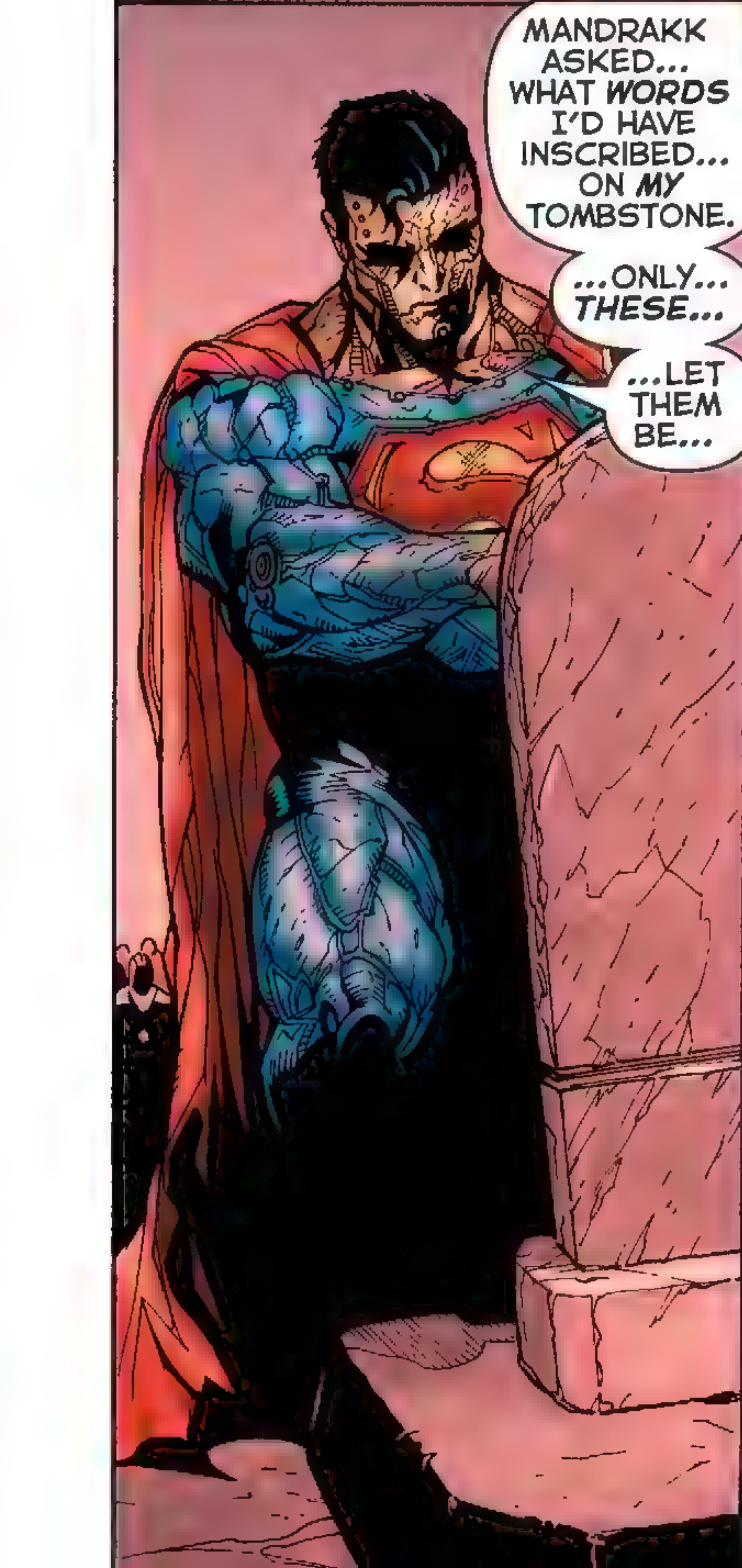
THE ELIXIR
IS YOURS.

BUT YOU CAN
NEVER TAKE IT
BACK TO YOUR
GERM WORLD.

...I'LL FIND
A WAY...

...HER
COURAGE...
SAVED YOU
ALL...

...THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT
STORIES... THAT
YOU SHOULD
KNOW...



MANDRAKK
ASKED...
WHAT WORDS
I'D HAVE
INSCRIBED...
ON MY
TOMBSTONE.

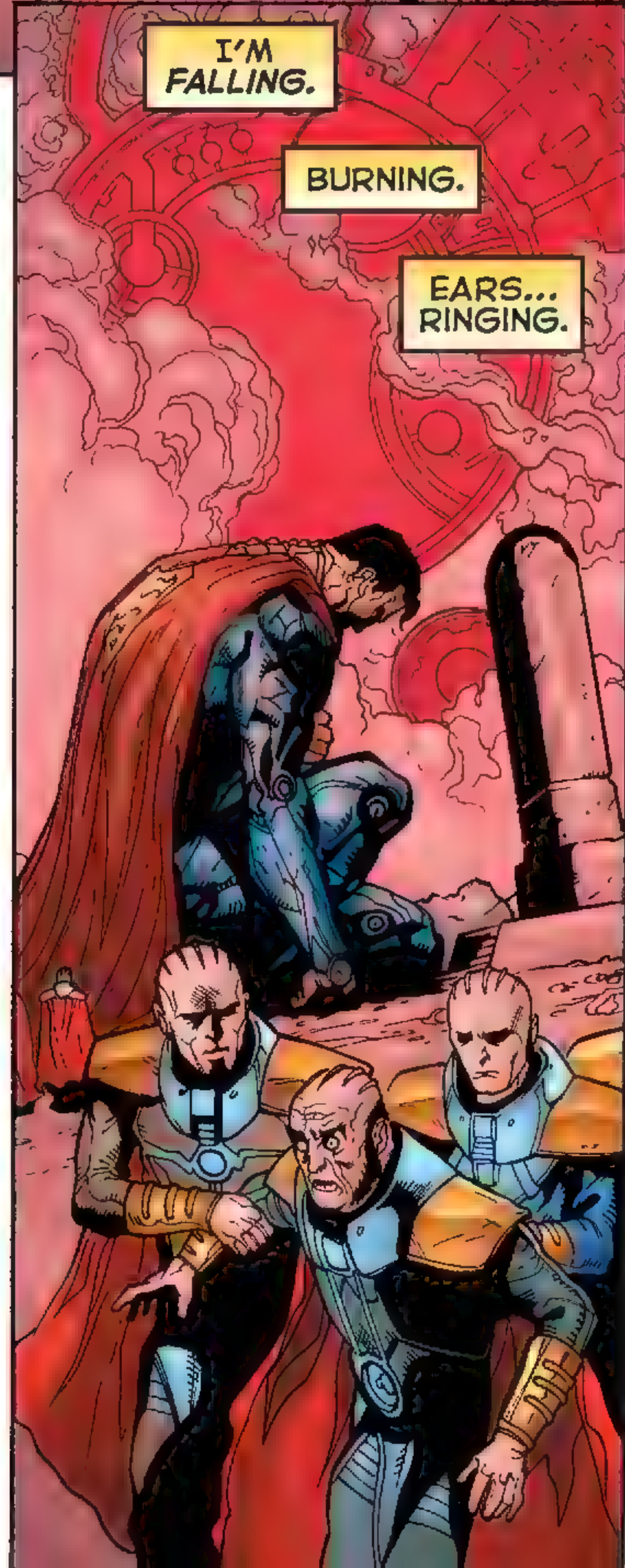
...ONLY...
THESE...

...LET
THEM
BE...



...A
WARNING...

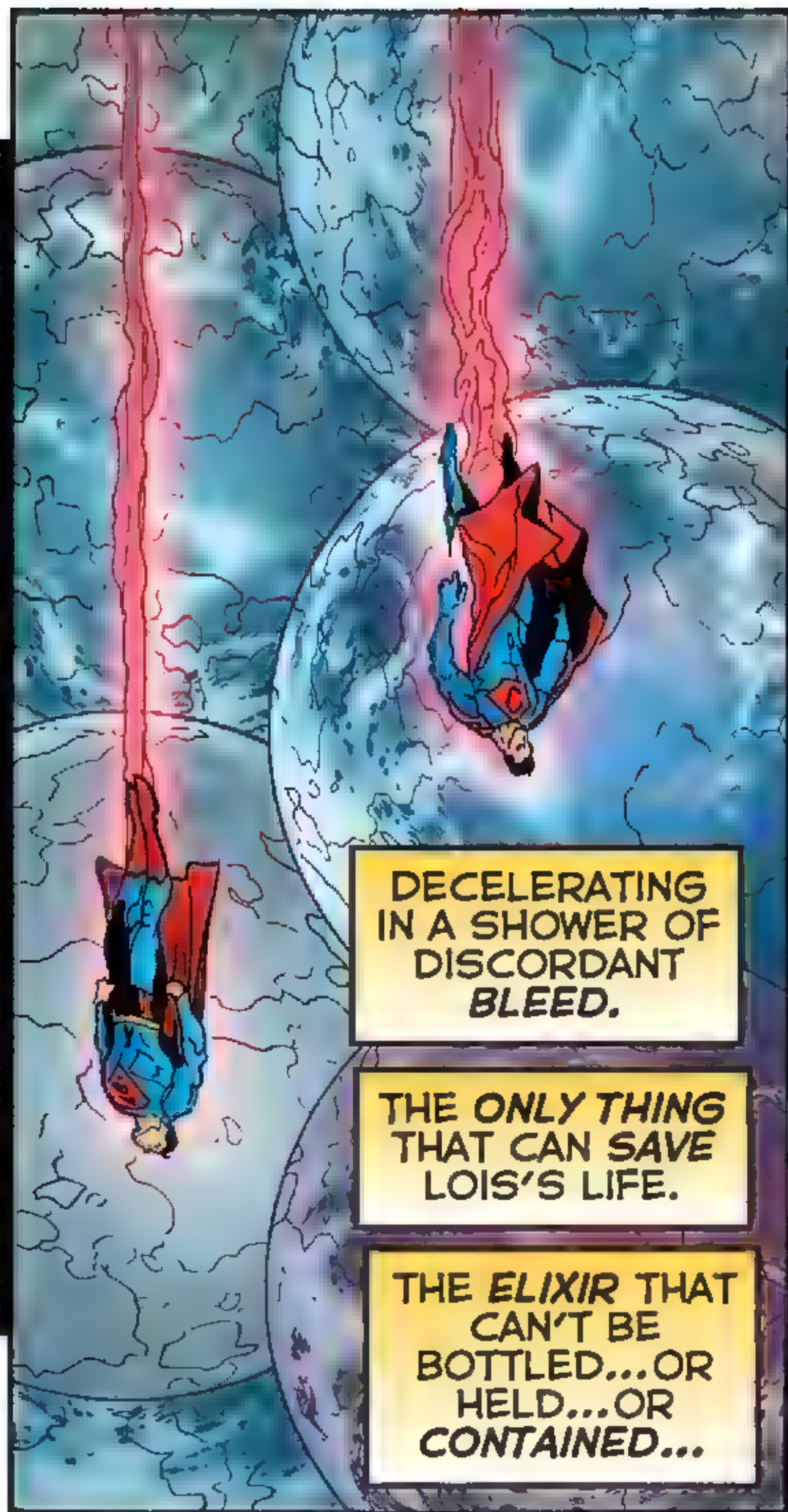
NNNNHHHH



I'M
FALLING.

BURNING.

EARS...
RINGING.



DECELERATING
IN A SHOWER OF
DISCORDANT
BLEED.

THE ONLY THING
THAT CAN SAVE
LOIS'S LIFE.

THE *ELIXIR* THAT
CAN'T BE
BOTTLED...OR
HELD...OR
CONTAINED...



EXPLODING ALL
AROUND ME
LIKE *THUNDER*
AND *STARS*.

I FOUND
MY TREASURE,
CAPTAIN
ADAM.

ONCE I RESTORE
THIS FRAGMENT TO THE
ROCK OF ETERNITY, THE
TIME-CRISIS THAT TURNED
MY WORLD TOPSY-TURVY
OUGHT TO COME TO AN
END.

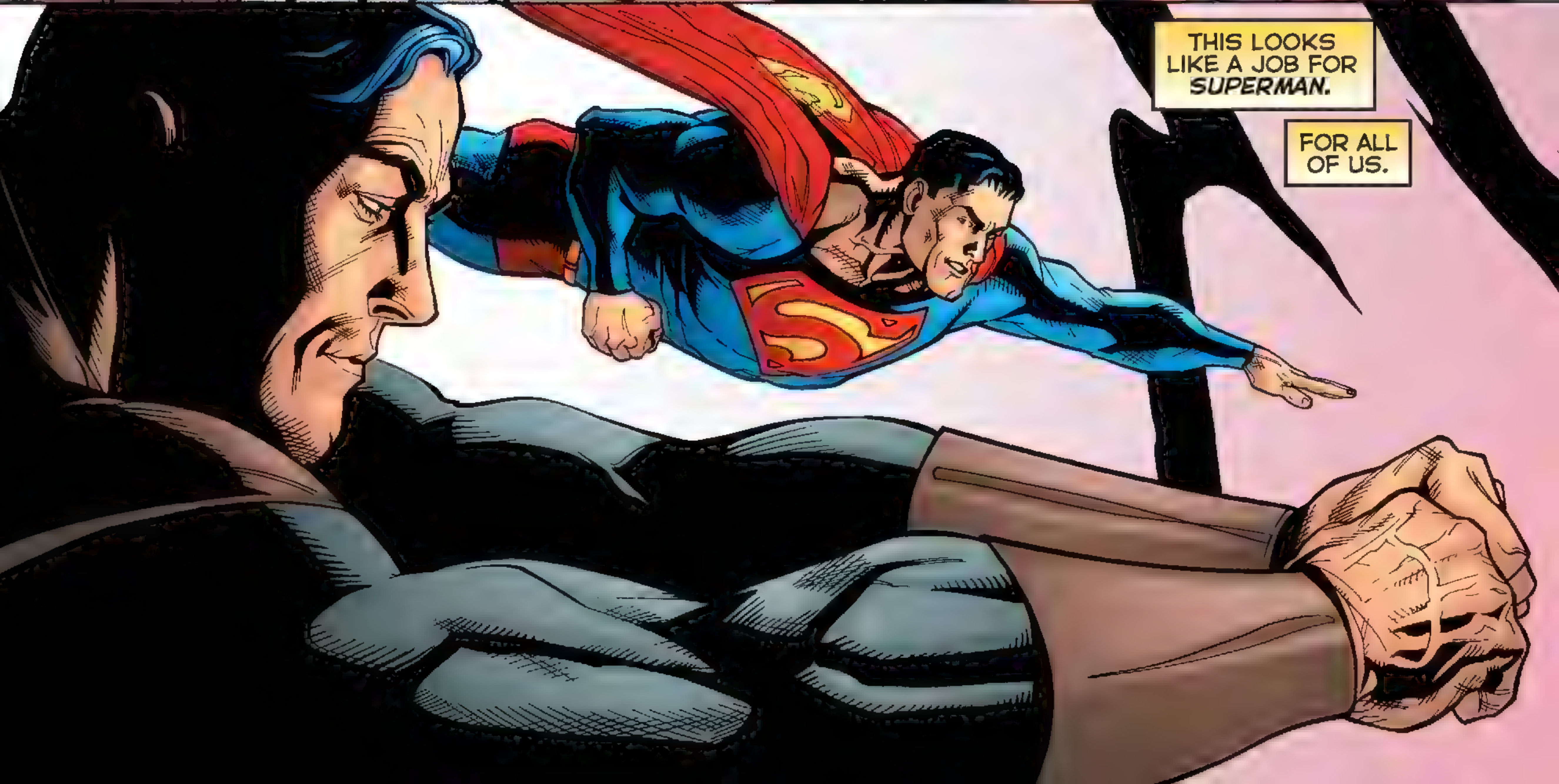
...CAPTAIN?...

REALITY-BLITZING
MISSILES EVOLVE
INTO POSITION ON
THE BLACK CARAPACE
OF MANDRAKK'S
DESTROYER.



THIS
INFINITESIMAL
OBJECT FROM
THE MONITOR
WORLD, GIGANTIC
IN OUR OWN...

PREPARING TO
STERILIZE THE
GERM-WORLDS
AND MAKE EVERY
LIVING THING
EXTINCT!



THIS LOOKS
LIKE A JOB FOR
SUPERMAN.

FOR ALL
OF US.

I DON'T
SPEAK.

I DAREN'T
SPEAK.

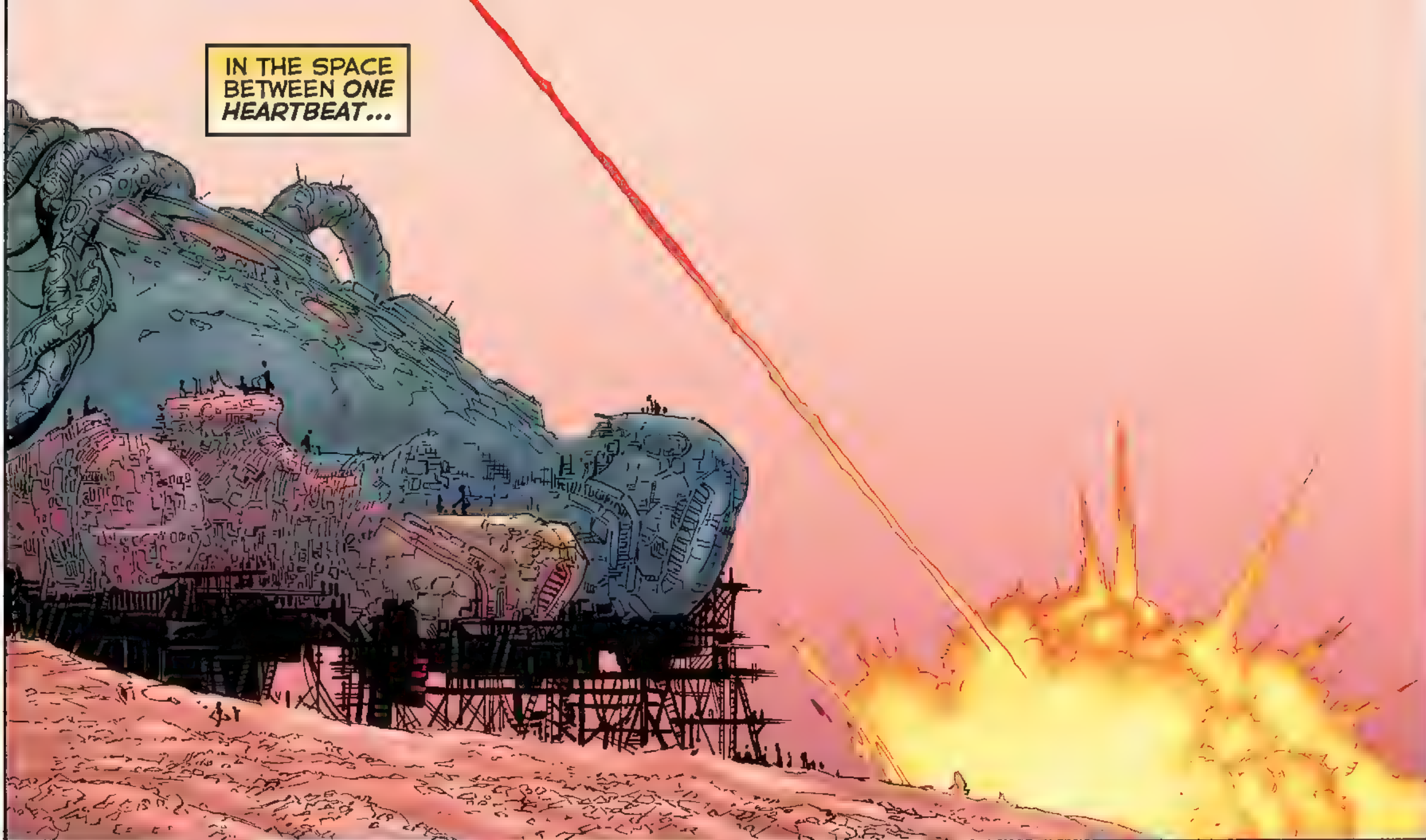
USING
INTERNATIONAL
SIGN LANGUAGE,
I EXPLAIN WHY.

AS THE
MISSILES SING
LIKE A DEMON
CHOIR, ATONAL,
INSANE...

I CAN
ONLY ACT.

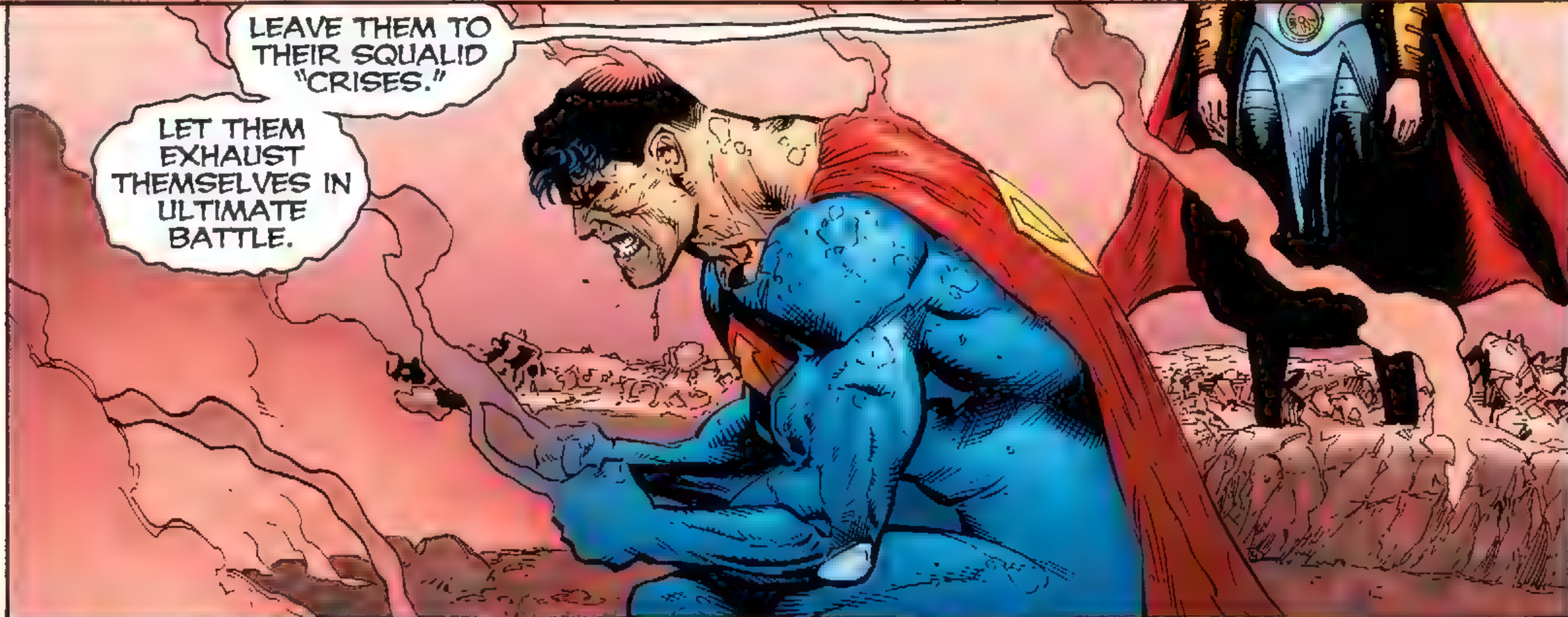


IN THE SPACE
BETWEEN ONE
HEARTBEAT...



LEAVE THEM TO
THEIR SQUALID
"CRISES."

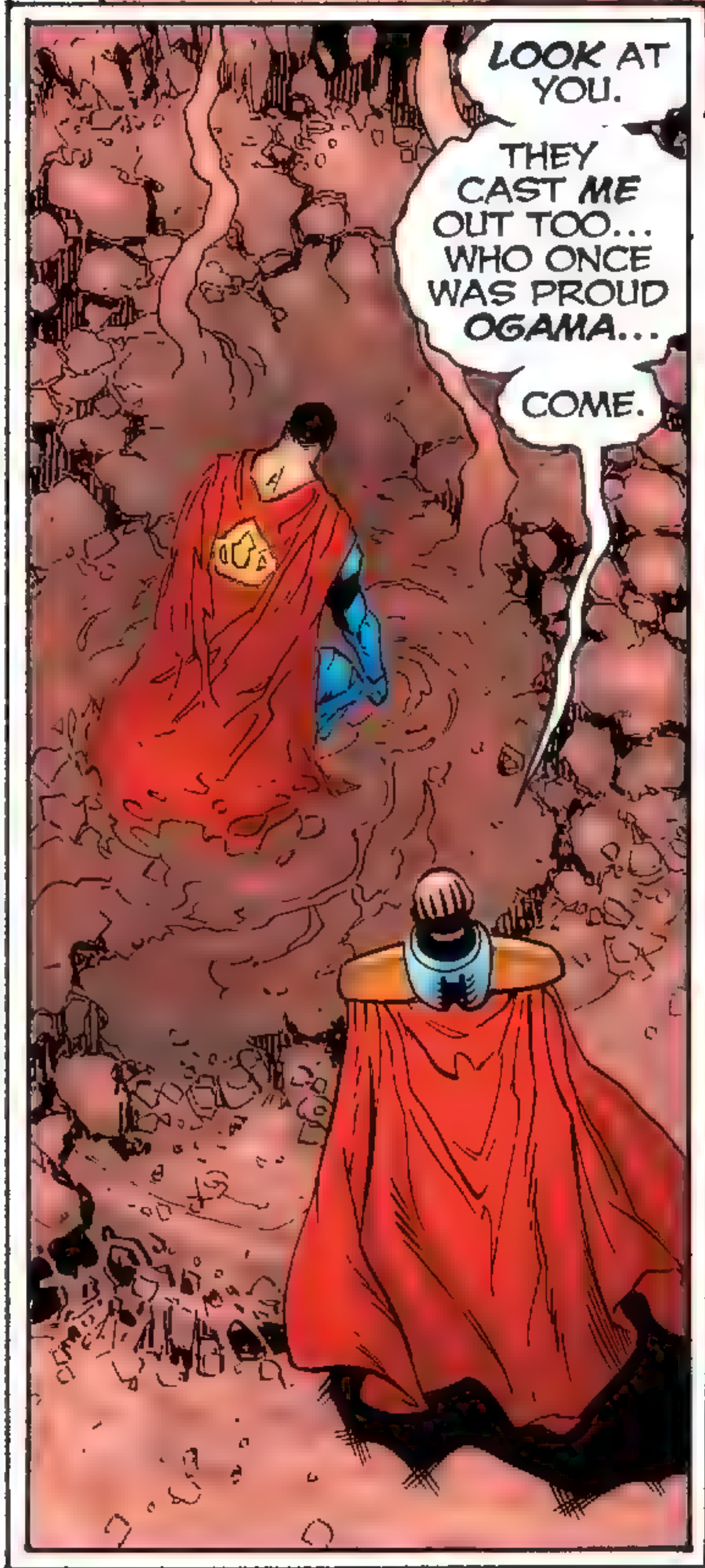
LET THEM
EXHAUST
THEMSELVES IN
ULTIMATE
BATTLE.



LOOK AT
YOU.

THEY
CAST ME
OUT TOO...
WHO ONCE
WAS PROUD
OGAMA...

COME.

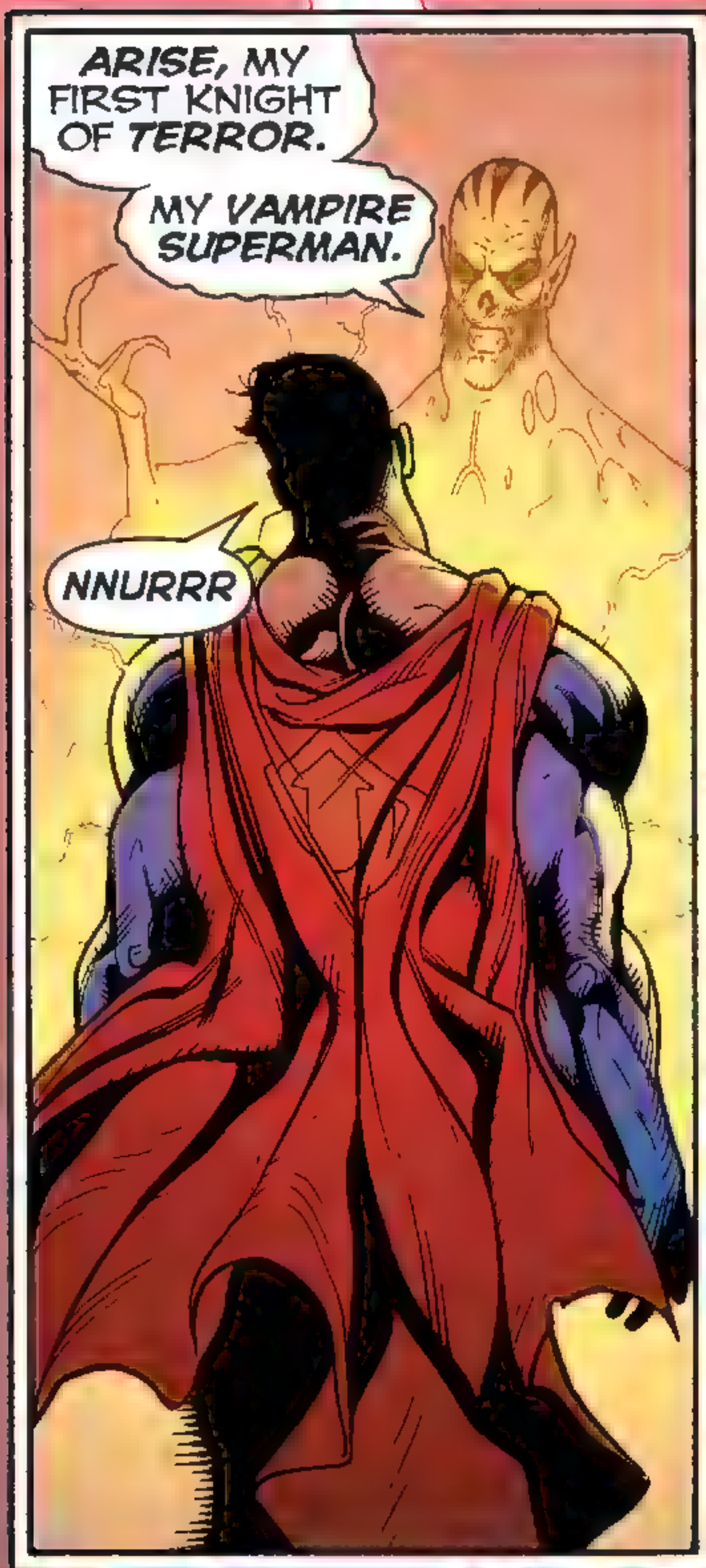


DRINK DEEP OF
THE BITTER CUP
OF MANDRAKK,
AS I HAVE,
ULTRAMAN!

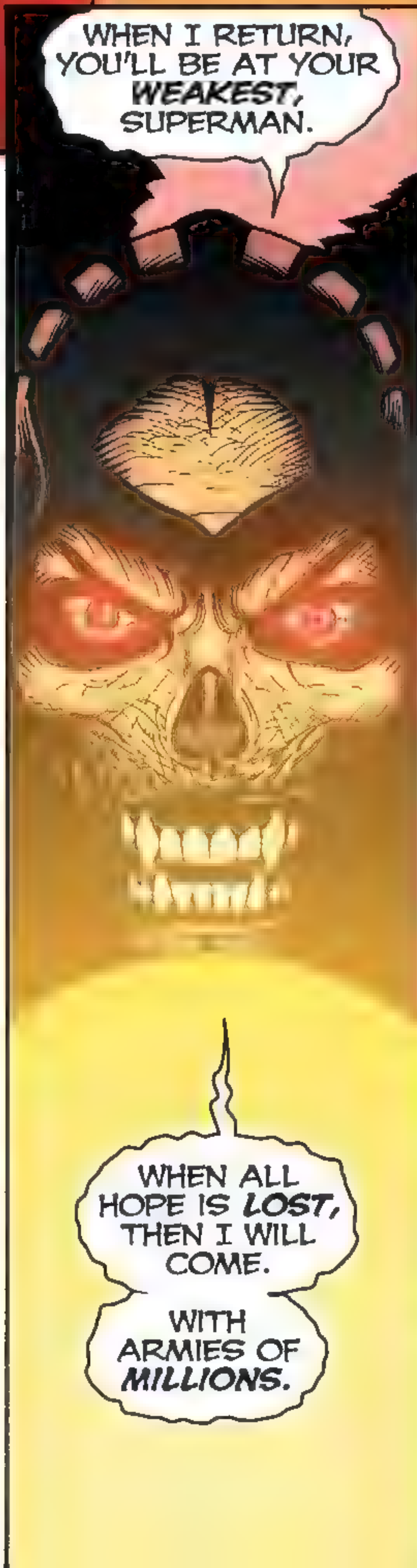
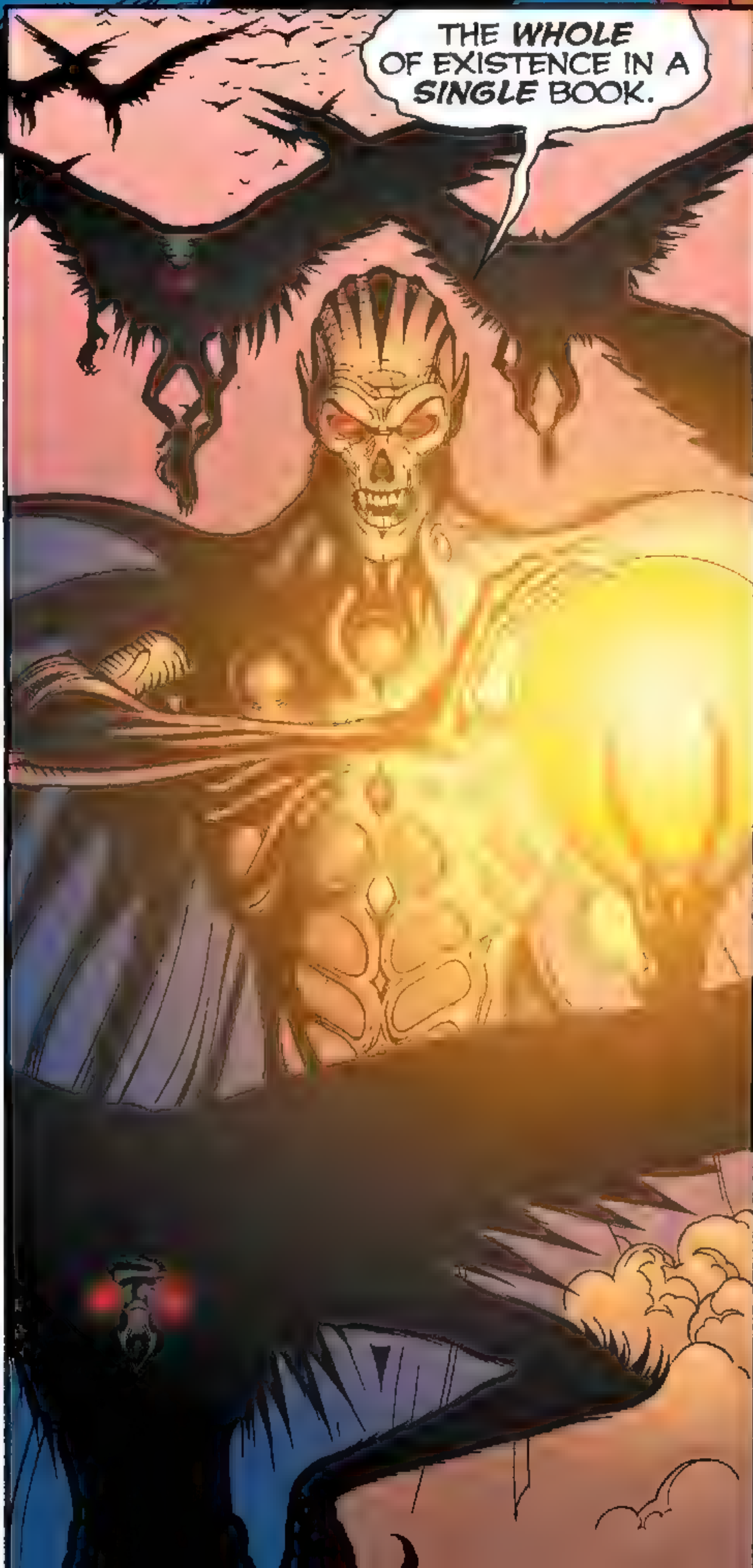
LET HIS
BLOOD FLOW
IN YOUR
VEINS.

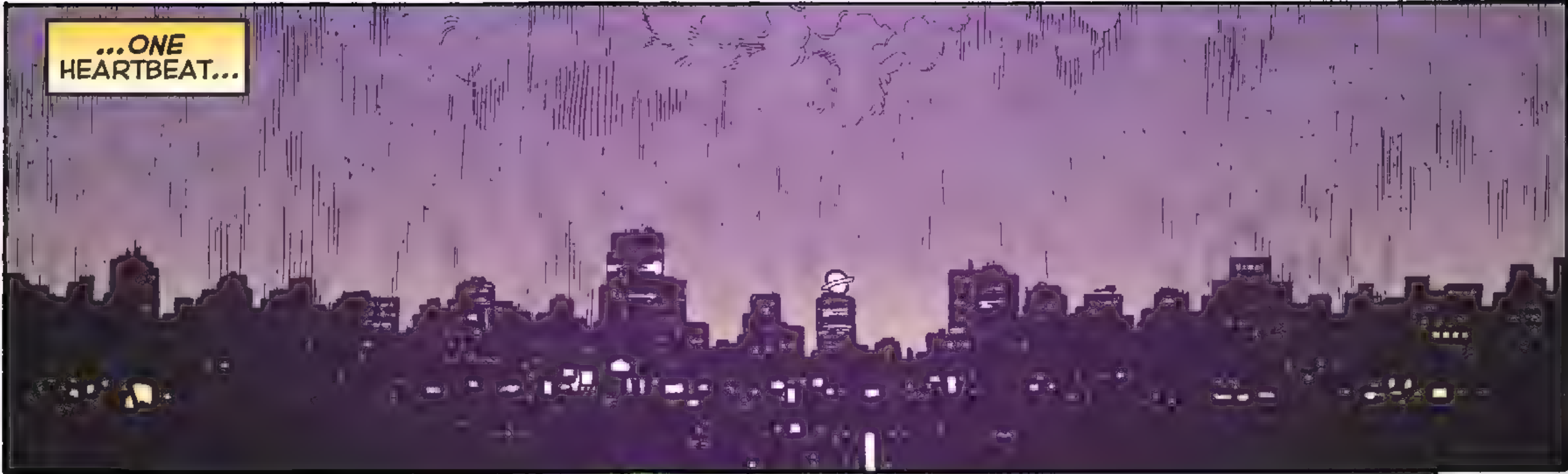
AND WHEN
ALL WITHIN
YOU IS
DEAD...



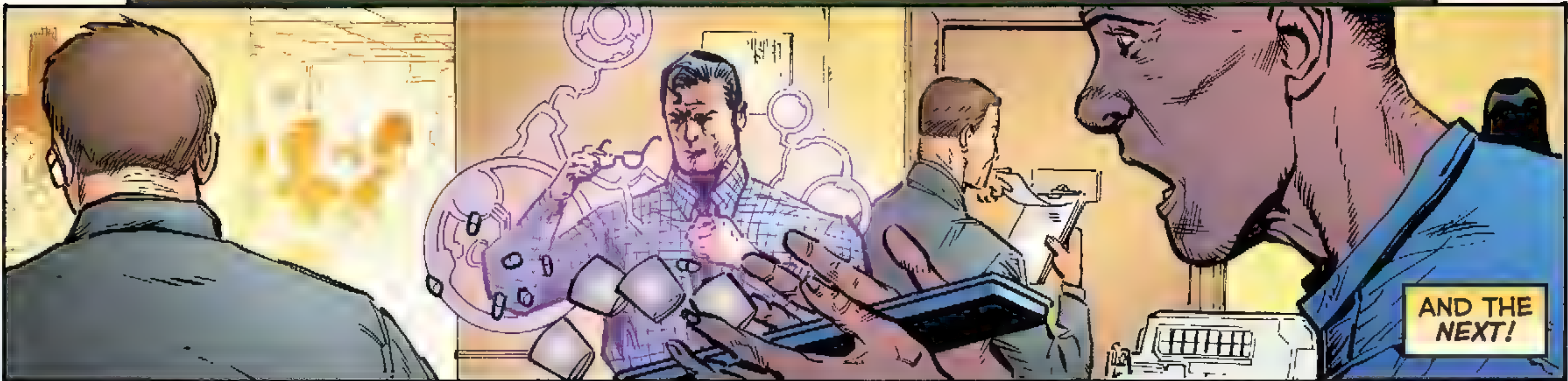
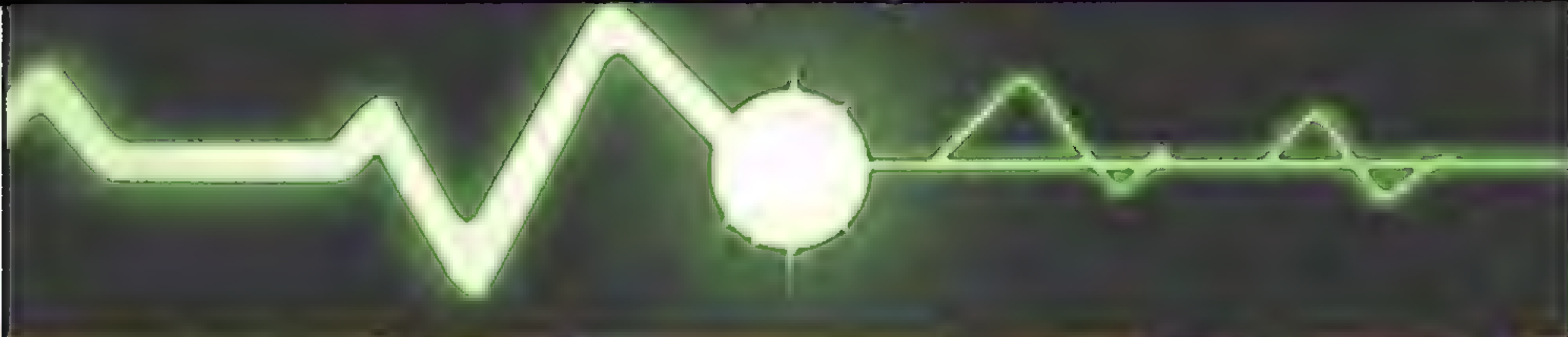


RRRRRAAAAAUUUU





...ONE
HEARTBEAT...

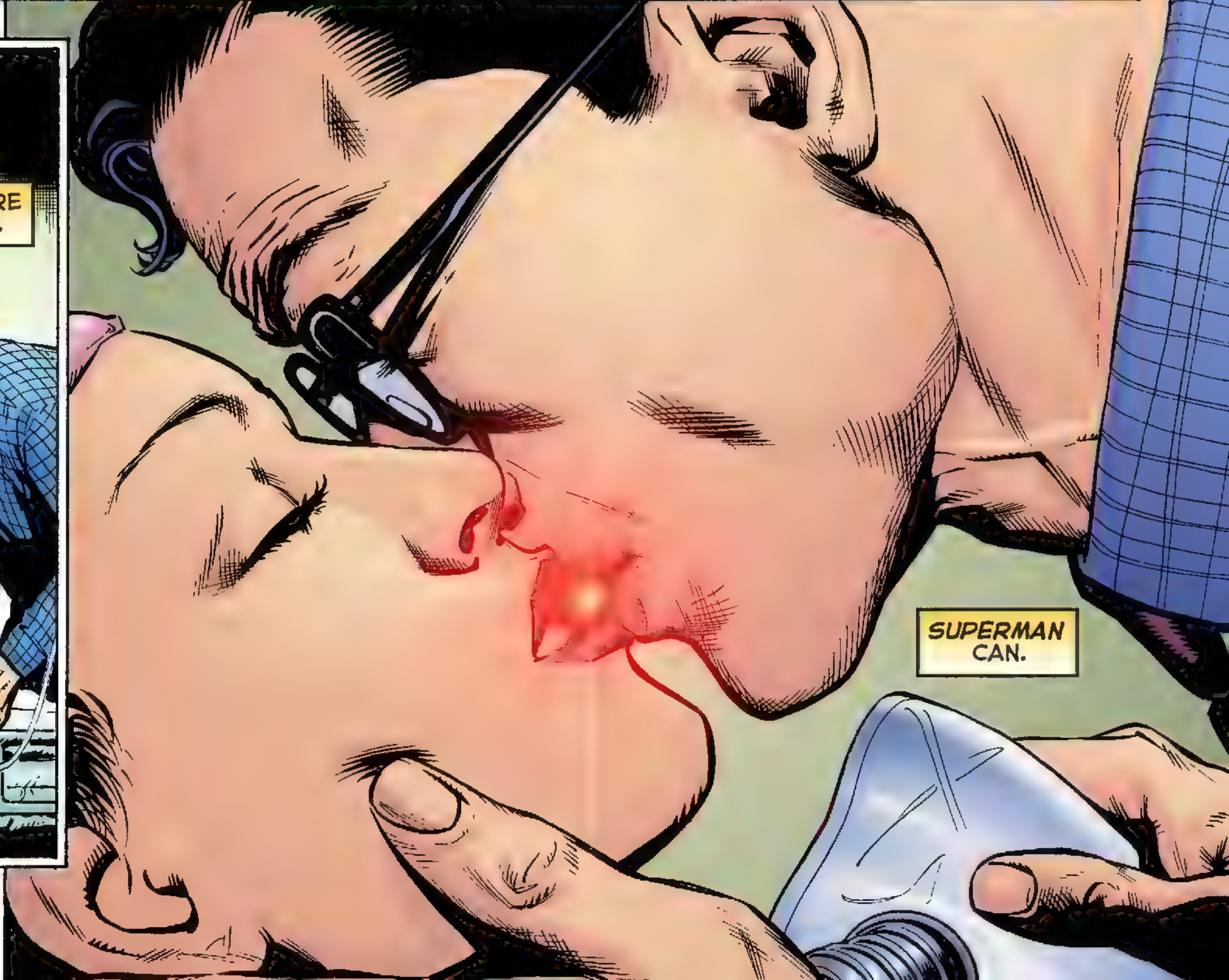


AND THE
NEXT!

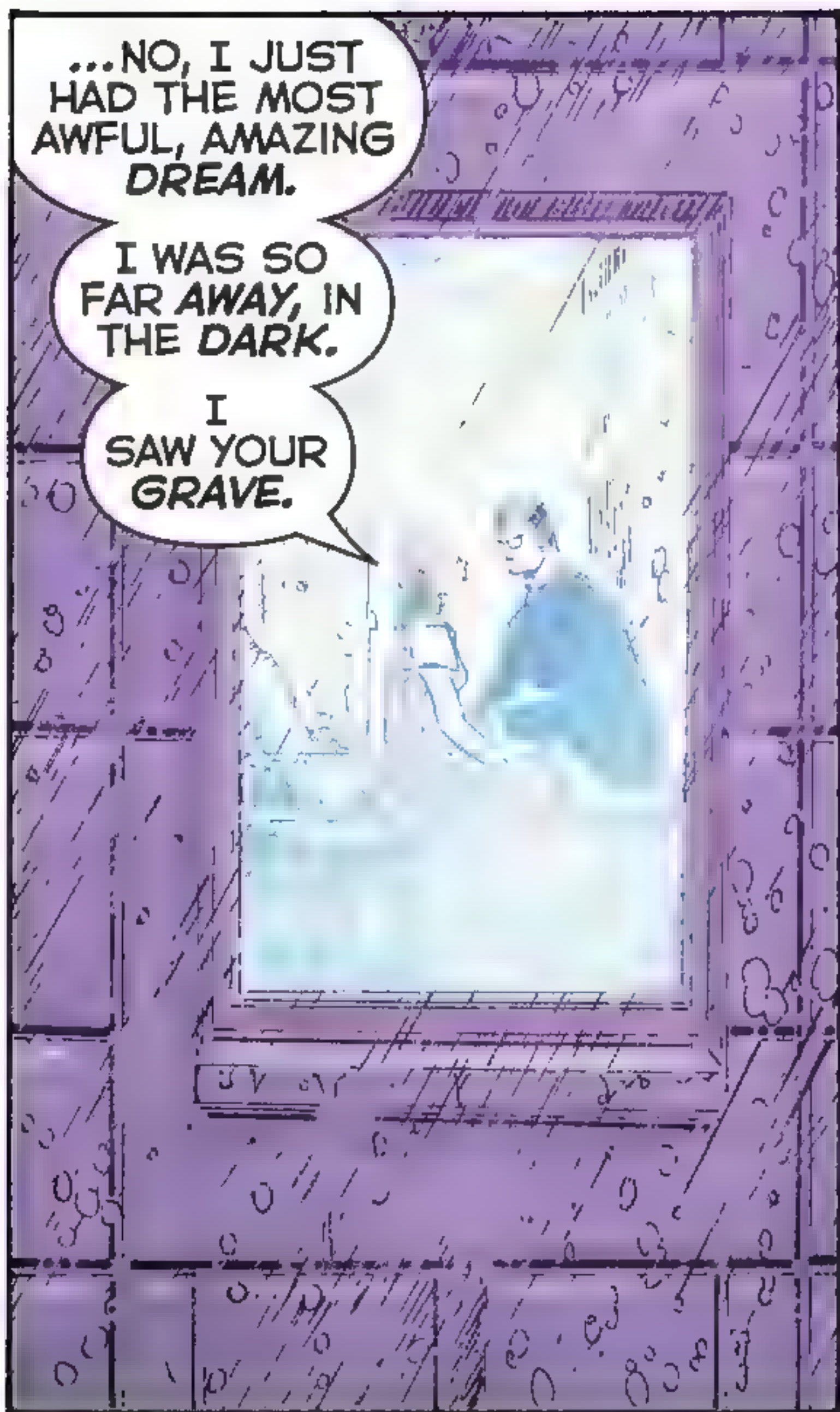


NOTHING CAN
HOLD OR
CONTAIN BLEED,
THEY SAID.

THEY WERE
WRONG.



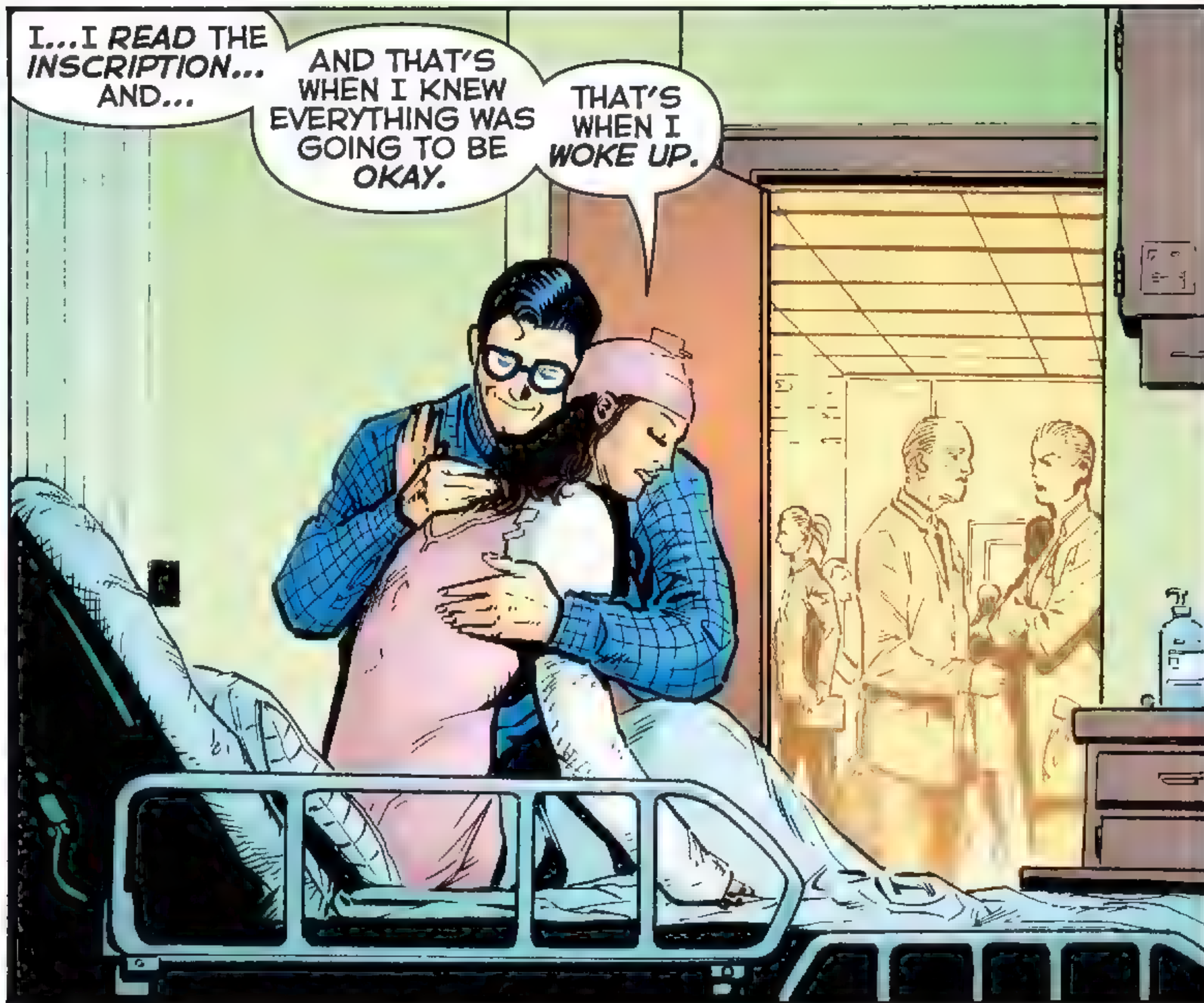
SUPERMAN
CAN.



...NO, I JUST HAD THE MOST AWFUL, AMAZING DREAM.

I WAS SO FAR AWAY, IN THE DARK.

I SAW YOUR GRAVE.



I...I READ THE INSCRIPTION... AND...

AND THAT'S WHEN I KNEW EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE OKAY.

THAT'S WHEN I WOKE UP.



AND THERE YOU WERE.

CLARK, THERE WAS THIS...TASTE... LIKE THE BEST CHAMPAGNE... ICE CREAM... OH...

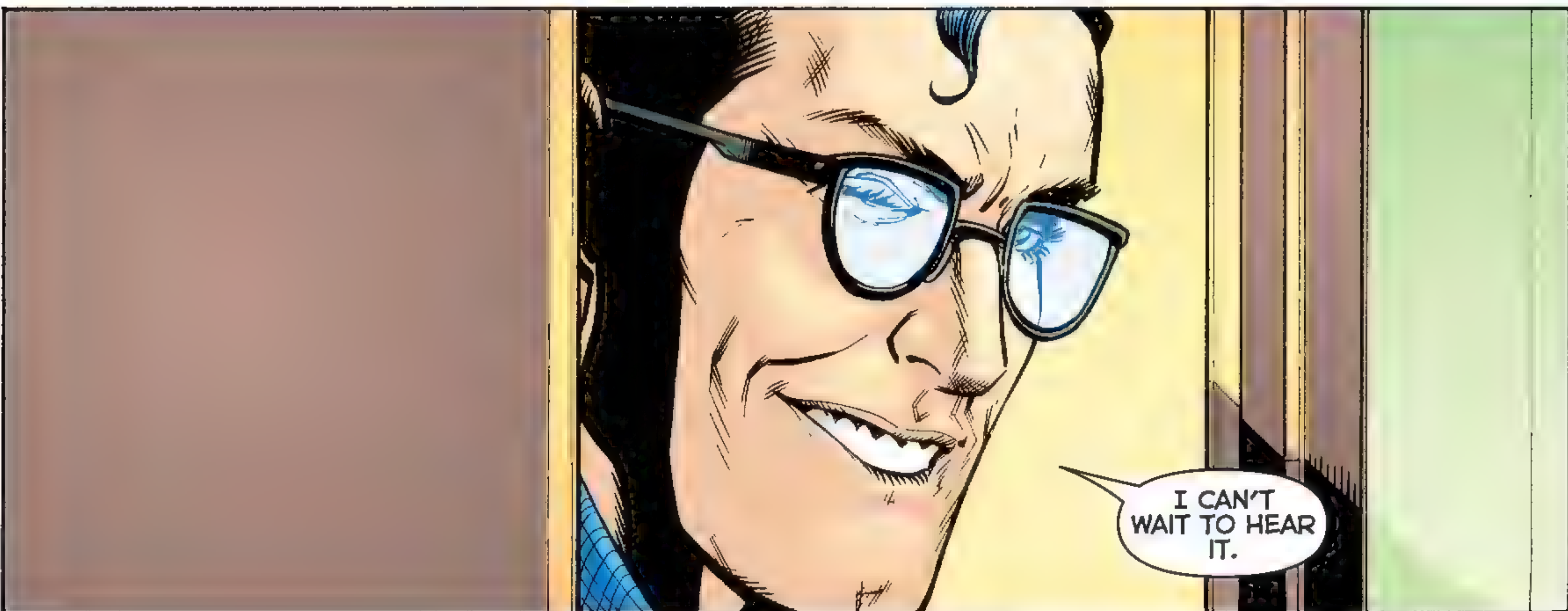
A PEN! I NEED A PEN TO WRITE ALL THIS DOWN BEFORE I FORGET.



AND CLOSE THE DOOR, CLARK.

DO I HAVE A STORY TO TELL.

CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR IT, LOIS.



I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR IT.

TO BE
CONTINUED



S U B M I T

GRANT MORRISON
writer

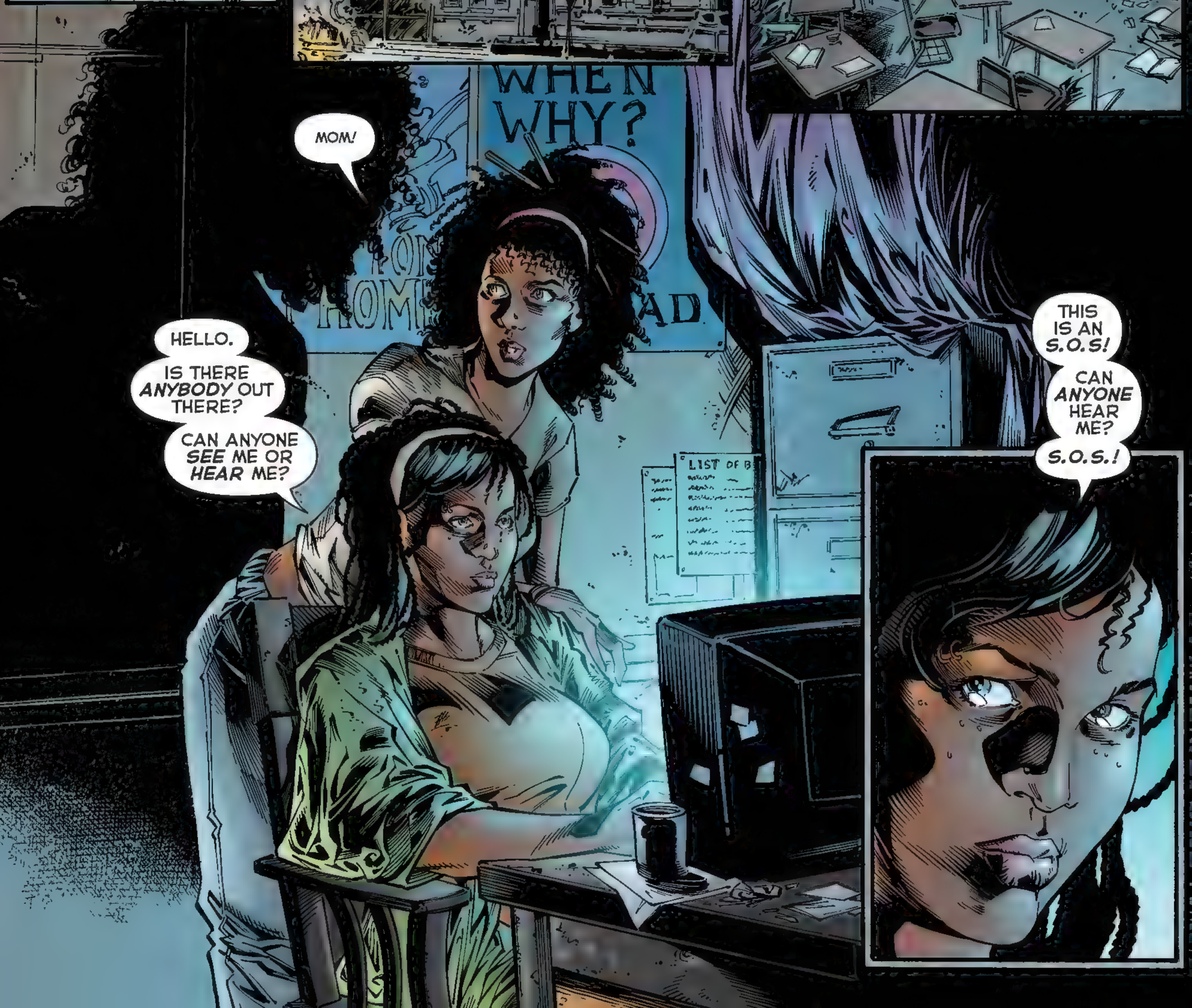
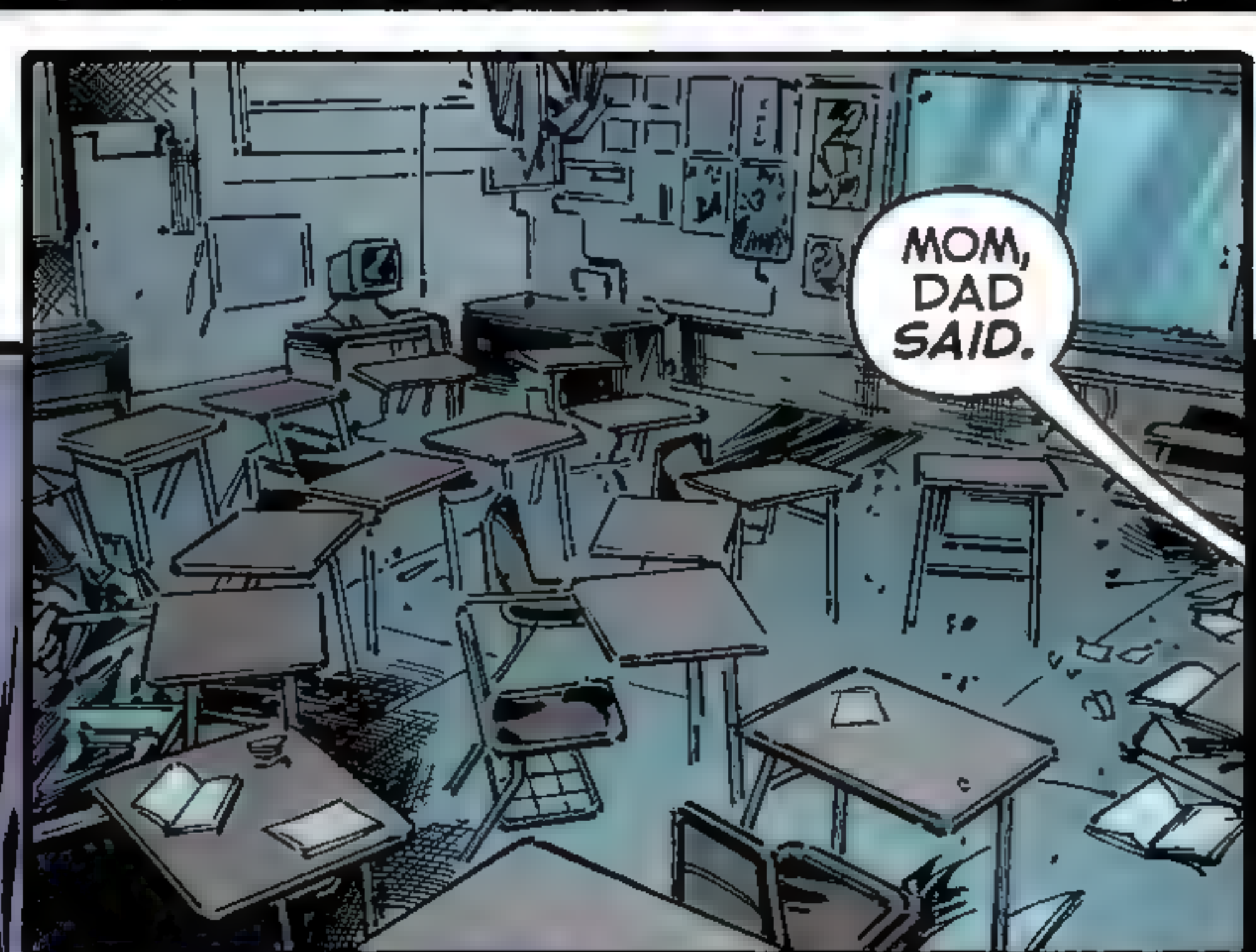
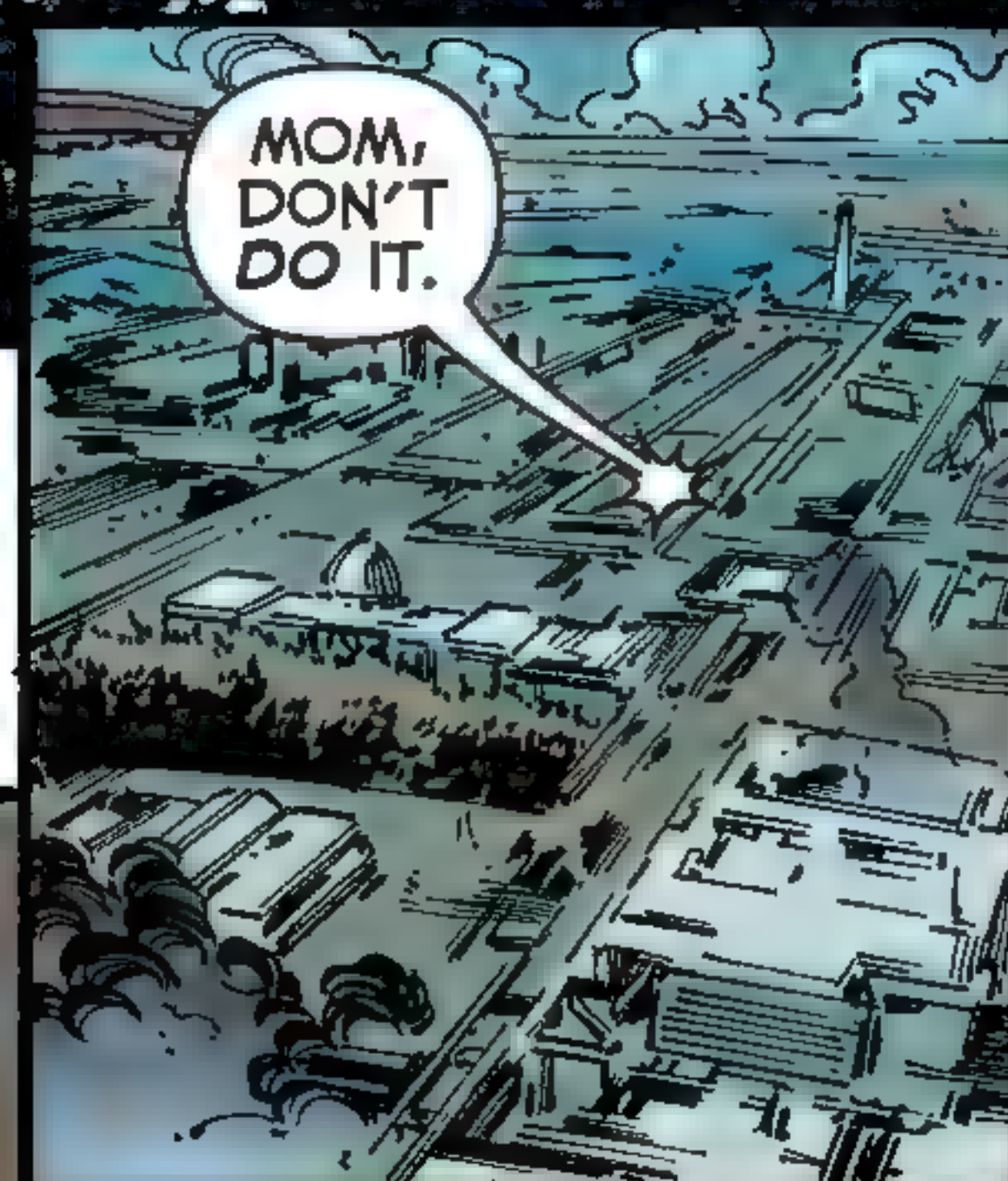
MATTHEW CLARK
penciller

NORM RAPMUND, ROB HUNTER & DON HO
inkers & finishes

RICHARD & TANYA HORIE
colorists

STEVE WANDS
letterer

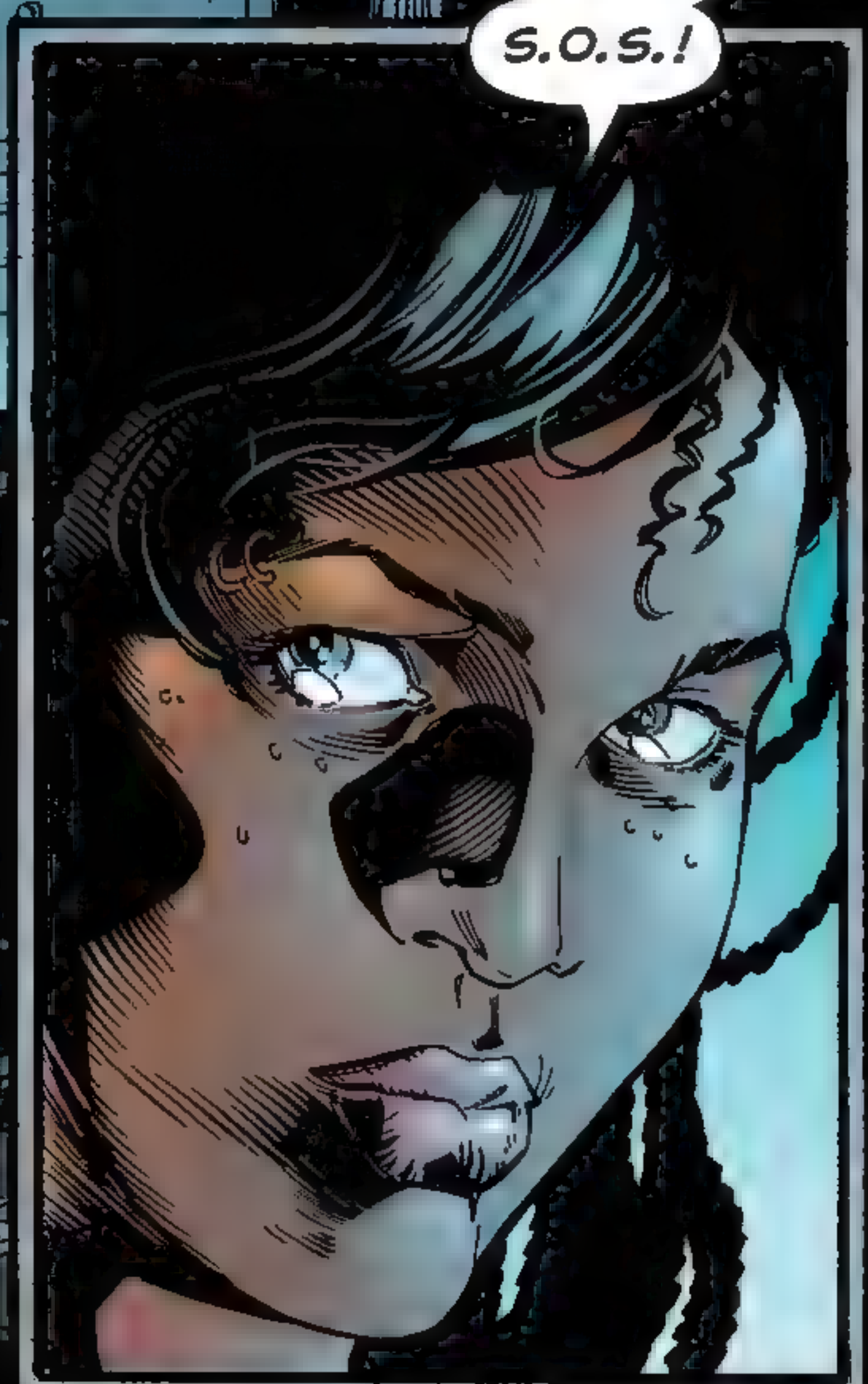
MATTHEW CLARK & PETE PANTAZIS
cover artists



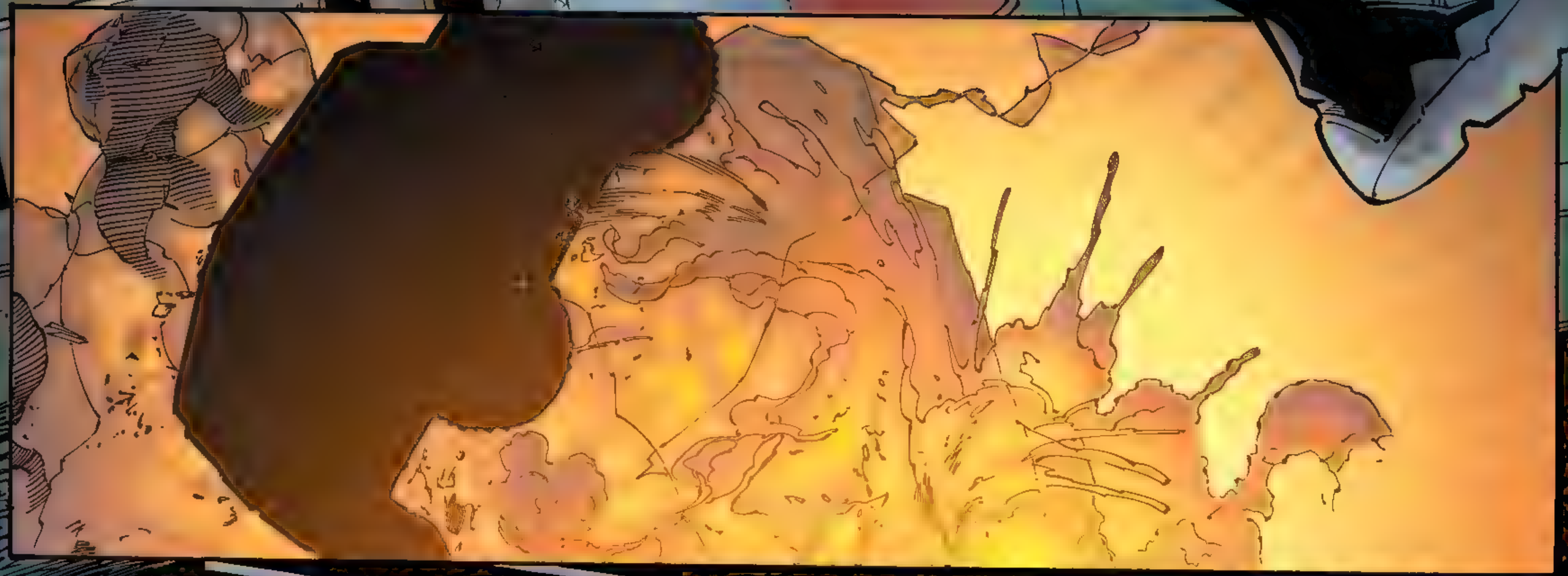
HELLO.
IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?
CAN ANYONE SEE ME OR HEAR ME?

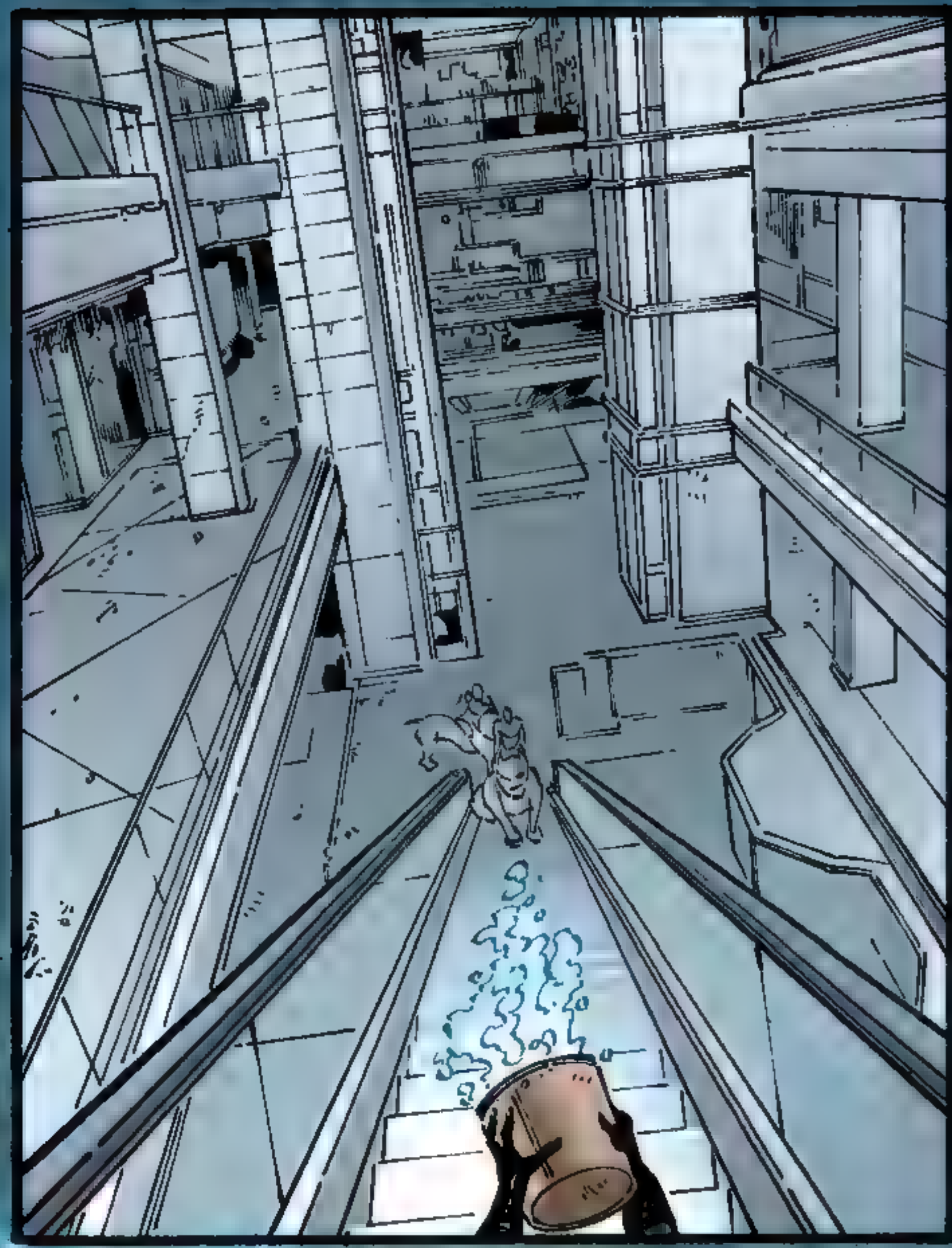
MOM!

THIS IS AN S.O.S!
CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?
S.O.S.!





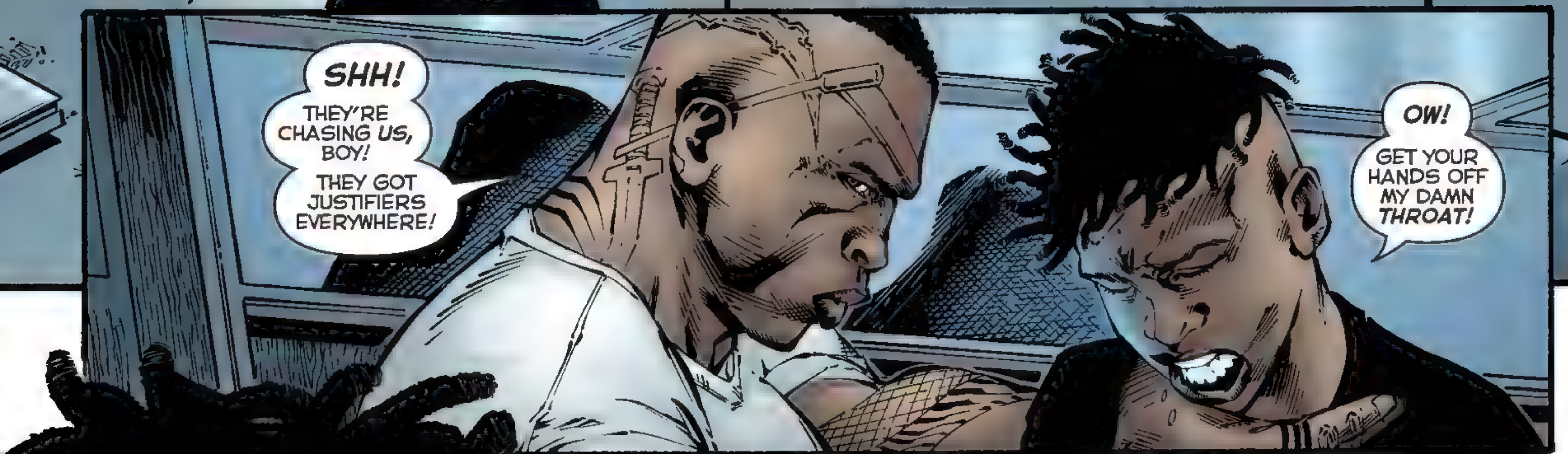






...BUT I
HEARD 'EM
ALL TURN
AWAY.

THEY'RE
CHASING
SOMEBODY
ELSE.



SHH!
THEY'RE
CHASING US,
BOY!
THEY GOT
JUSTIFIERS
EVERYWHERE!

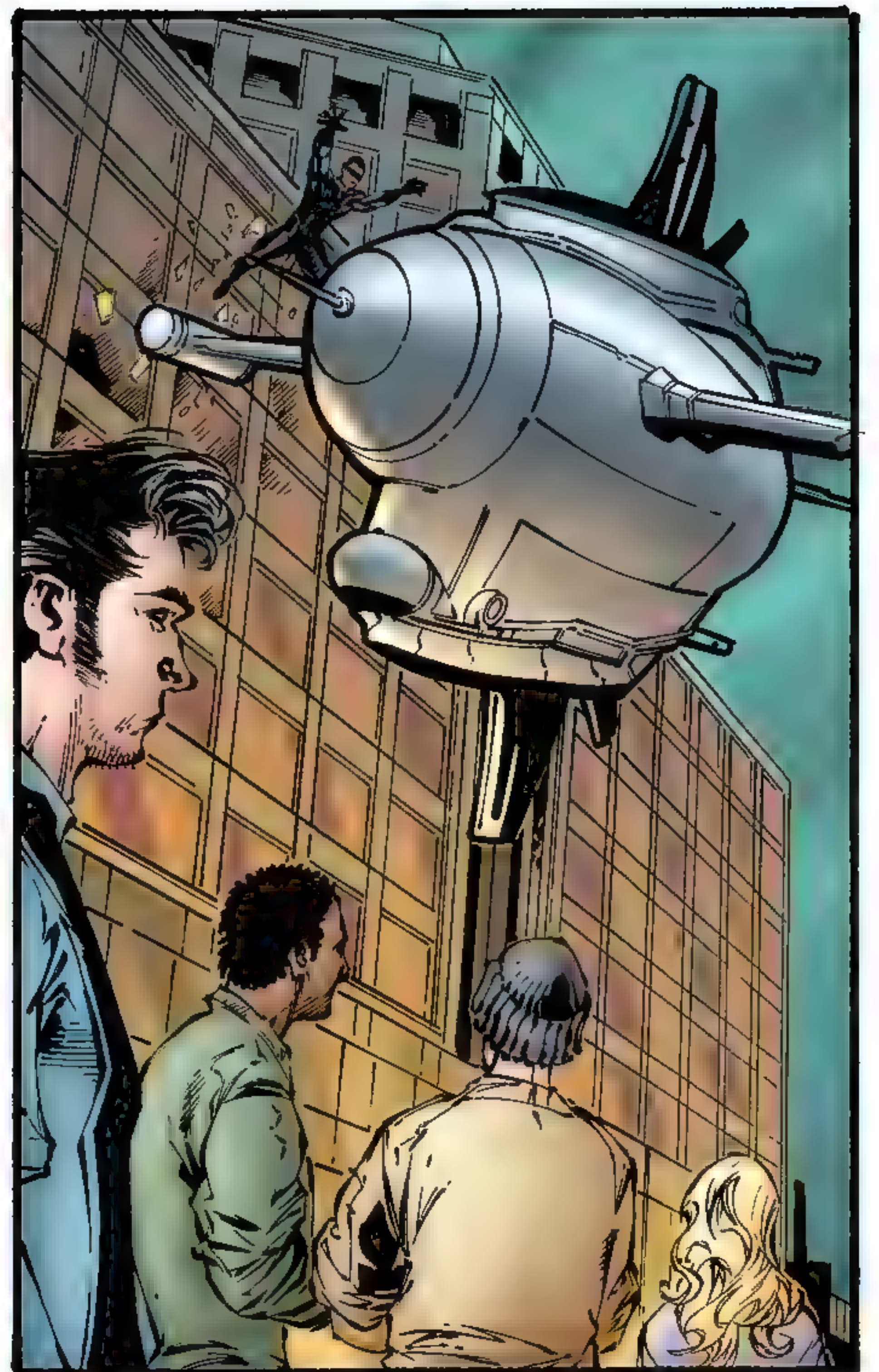
OW!
GET YOUR
HANDS OFF
MY DAMN
THROAT!

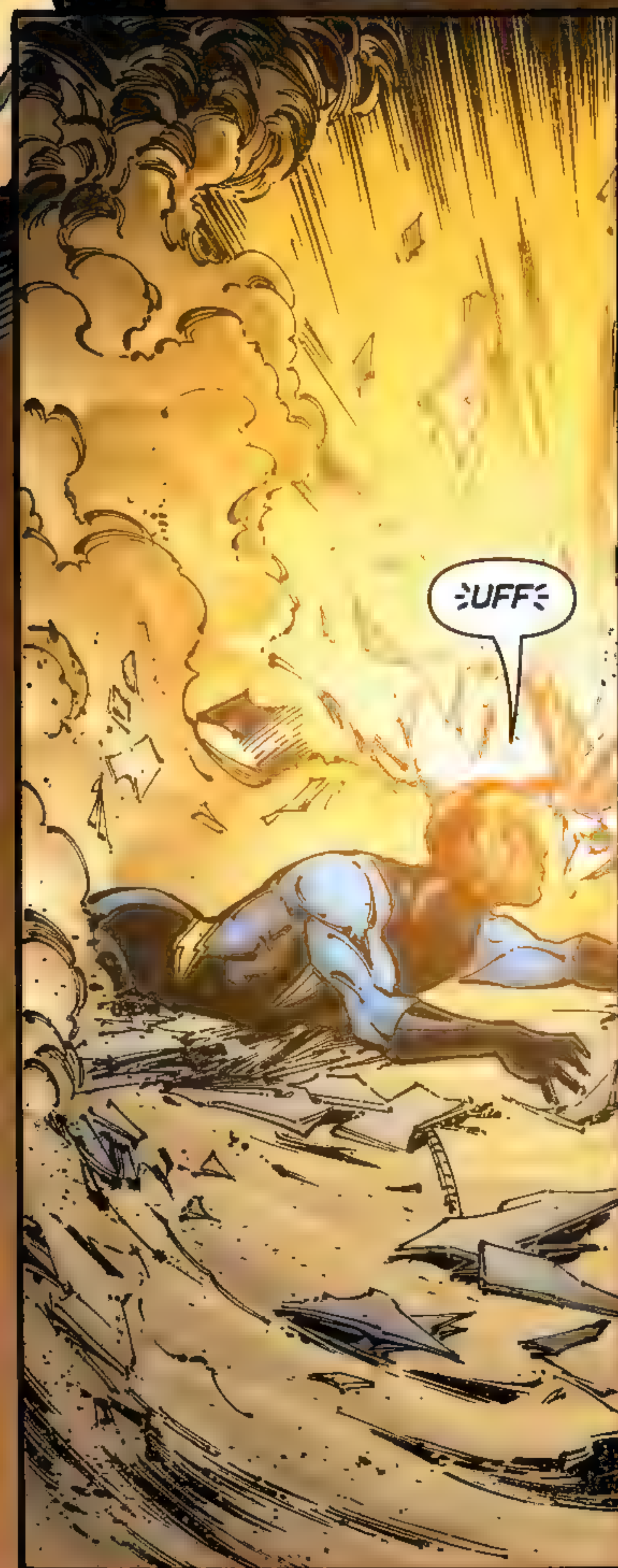
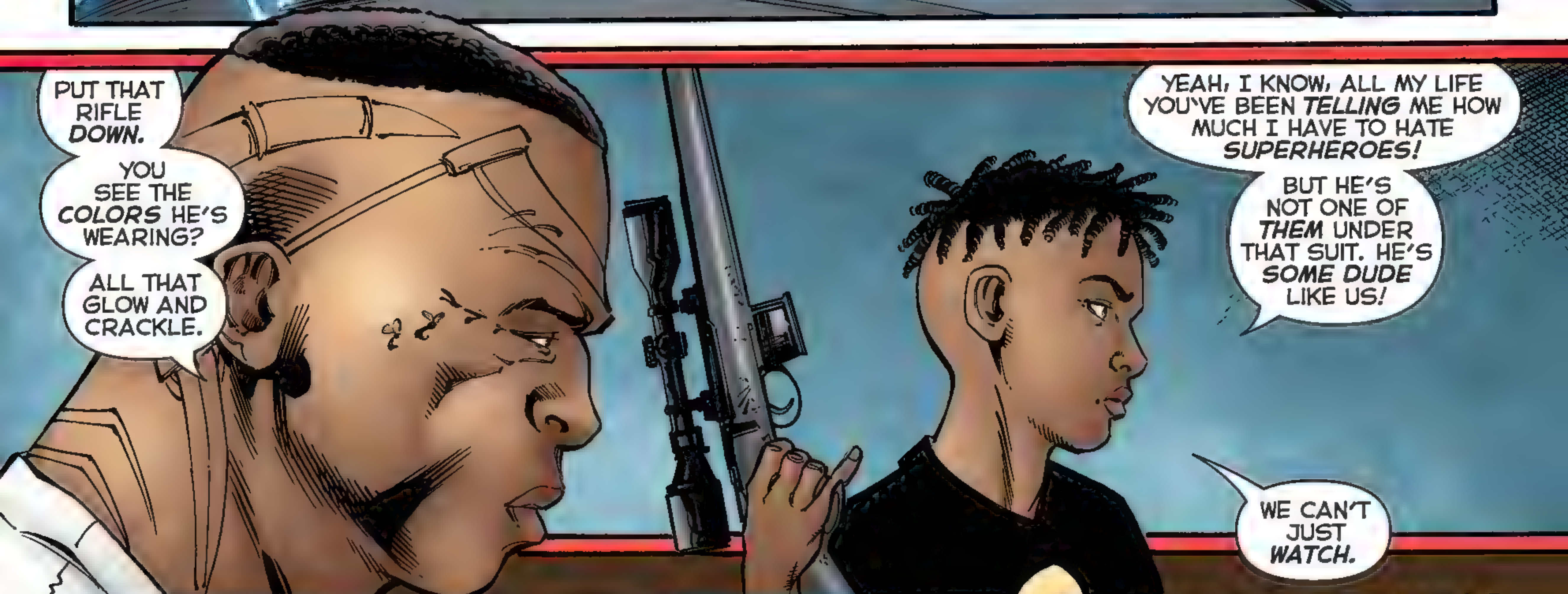


I HEARD
THEM.

YEAH,
WELL, MAYBE
YOU'RE *RIGHT*
AFTER ALL.

SOMETHING'S
GOING ON UP
AHEAD!







ALPHA
TARGET
ACQUIRED.

SUPERHUMAN
CODE DESIGNATE:
"BLACK LIGHTNING":
ELECTRICAL FIELD
MANIPULATOR
LEVEL 12.



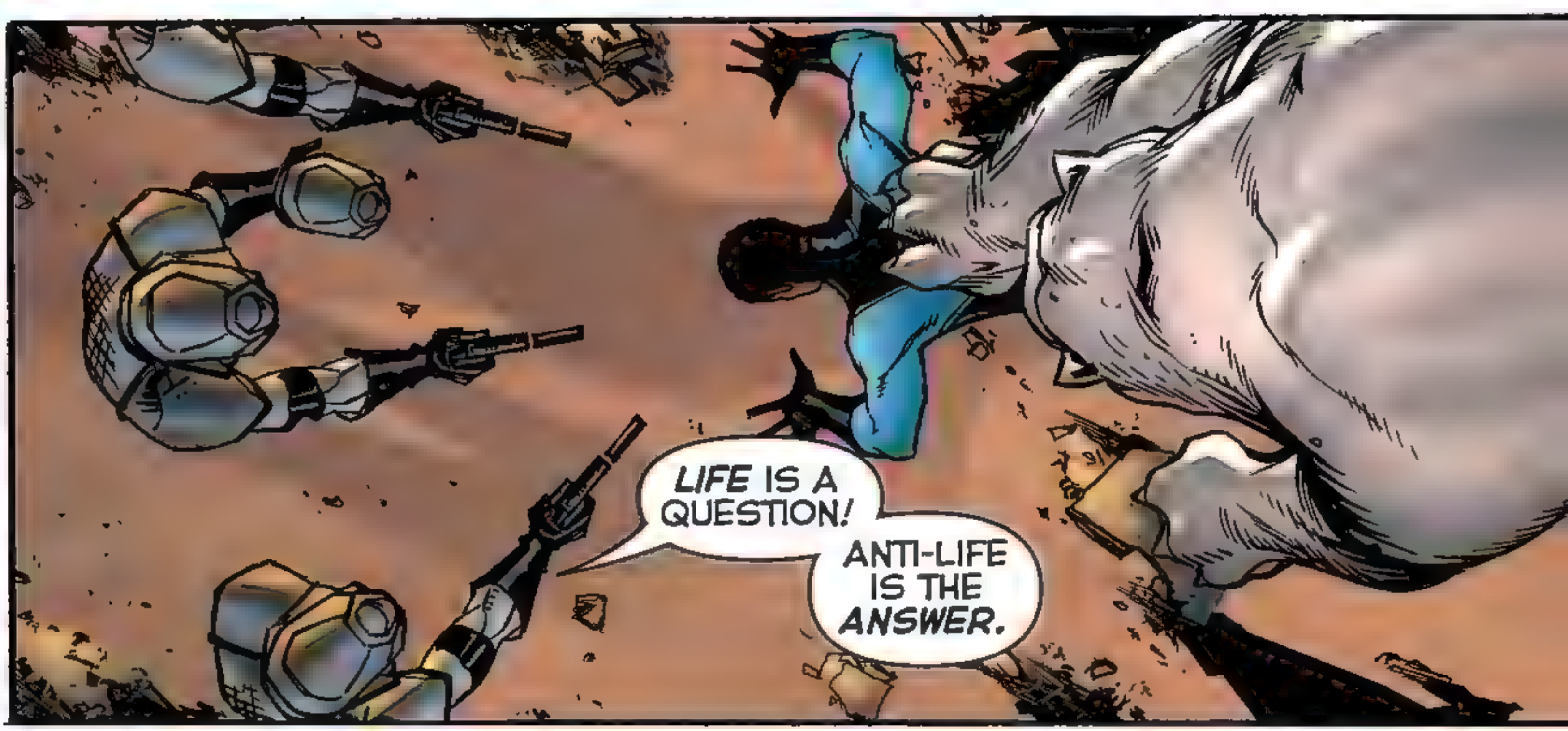
WEAR THE
HELMET!

BE LIKE
US!

BE
JUSTIFIED!

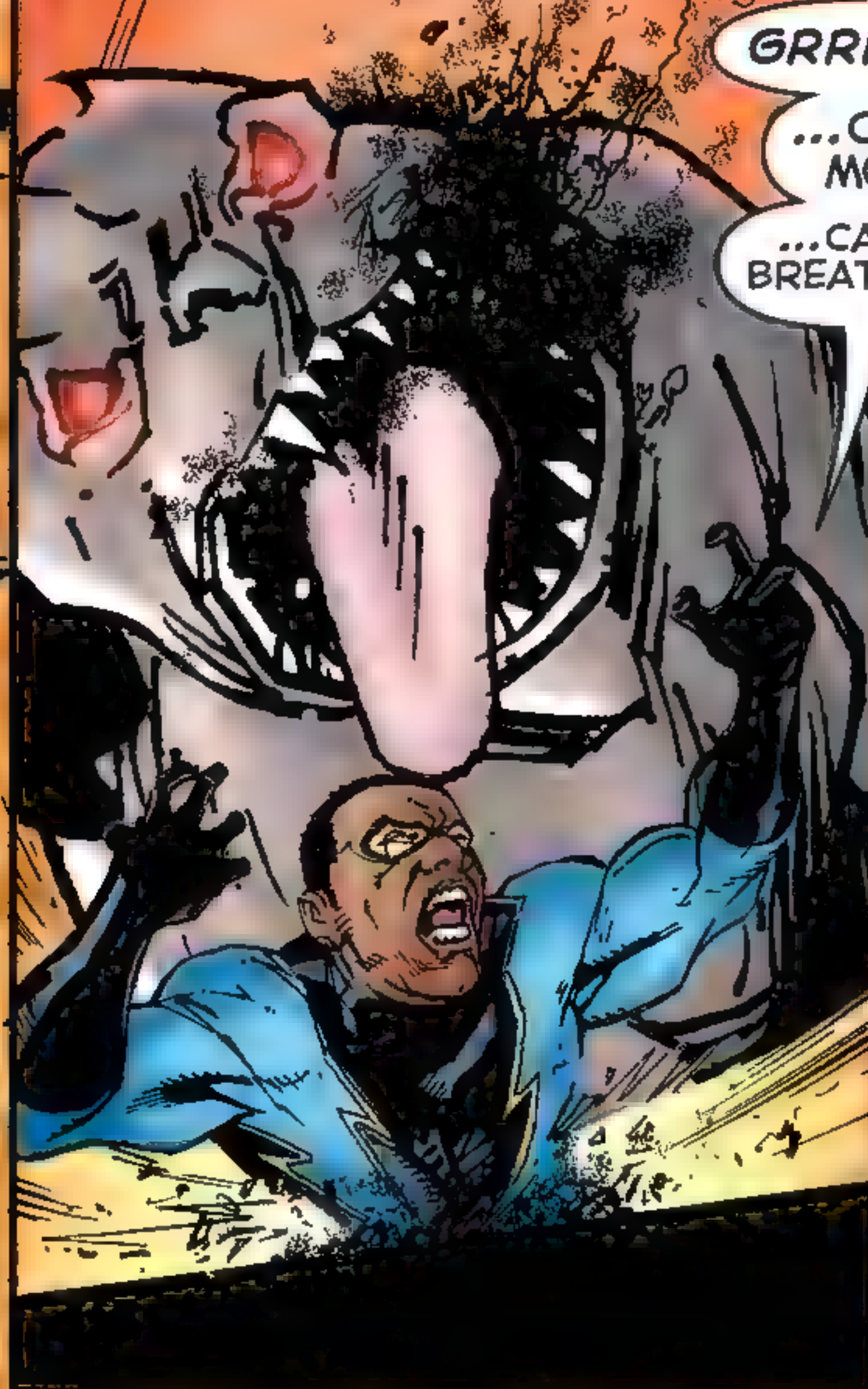


ANTI-LIFE
TAKES AWAY
THE FEAR.



LIFE IS A
QUESTION!

ANTI-LIFE
IS THE
ANSWER.



...IT'S THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE ON THE STREETS.

INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS, SPACE NAZI ANTI-LIFE FIRE AND BRIMSTONE!

AND MISTER JUSTICE LEAGUE RIGHT HERE MAKES US A TARGET.

YOU ALL KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, RIGHT?

HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN WRONGFULLY ARRESTED? HOW MANY TIMES WE TALKED ABOUT THIS?

I HAD MY WAY, WE'D KILL AND EAT THE BASTARD.

MARK!

I'M ONLY SAYING, HE'S TROUBLE.

COSTUMES EQUALS TROUBLE.

SPECIAL POWERS CLUB BROUGHT NOBODY NOTHING BUT GRIEF.

DAD...

I THINK HE'S MOVING.

DON'T DO THAT.

DON'T JUST BURN THE NEWSPAPERS.

PEOPLE STRUGGLED HARD TO MAKE THEM.

DAILY PLANET
BLUDHAVEN
HERE WE COME!

DAILY
BLUD
HERE



AND BOOKS?
BURNING
BOOKS IS WHAT
DARKSEID'S
JUSTIFIERS
DO.



THESE ARE THE TREASURES
OF OUR CIVILIZATION.

WHAT'S
THAT? YOU THINK
WE DON'T
READ?

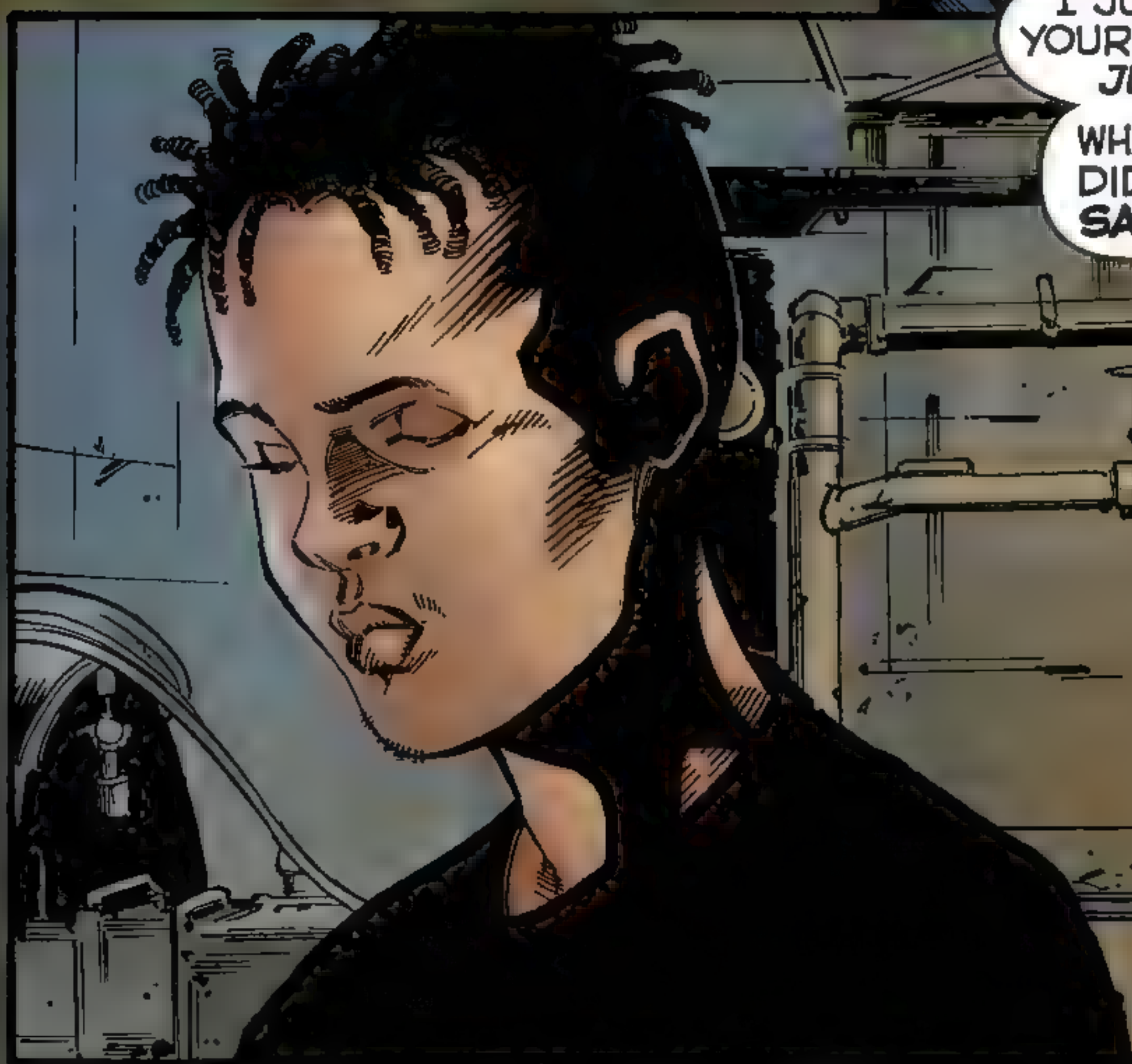
I'M JUST SOME
DUMB "SUPERVILLAIN"
AND HIS FAMILY WIPING THEIR
ASS ON THE TREASURES OF
CIVILIZATION IS THE *FIRST*
THING YOU THINK?

I JUST SAVED
YOUR LIFE, I GET
JUDGED?

WHAT
DID I
SAY?

MARK.

NEVER
TRUST A
SUPERHERO!



I'M
SORRY.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE
HALL OF JUSTICE WHEN I HEARD
THE S.O.S. AND THAT JUSTIFIER
BRIGADE APPEARED OUT OF
NOWHERE.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
HAVE DONE PRETTY WELL
TO SURVIVE THIS LONG IN
A WORLD THAT DOESN'T
EVEN BELONG TO US
ANYMORE.

THE
WORLD *NEVER*
BELONGED TO
PEOPLE LIKE ME,
SUPERSTAR.

WHAT
ELSE IS
NEW?





WHY
THE HERO
POSE?

YOU
LEAVING?



WE'RE ALL
LEAVING.

PACK ONLY
ESSENTIALS.

IF YOU STAY HERE,
JUSTIFIER PATROLS WILL
ALMOST CERTAINLY ARRIVE
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW
HOURS.



DAD...

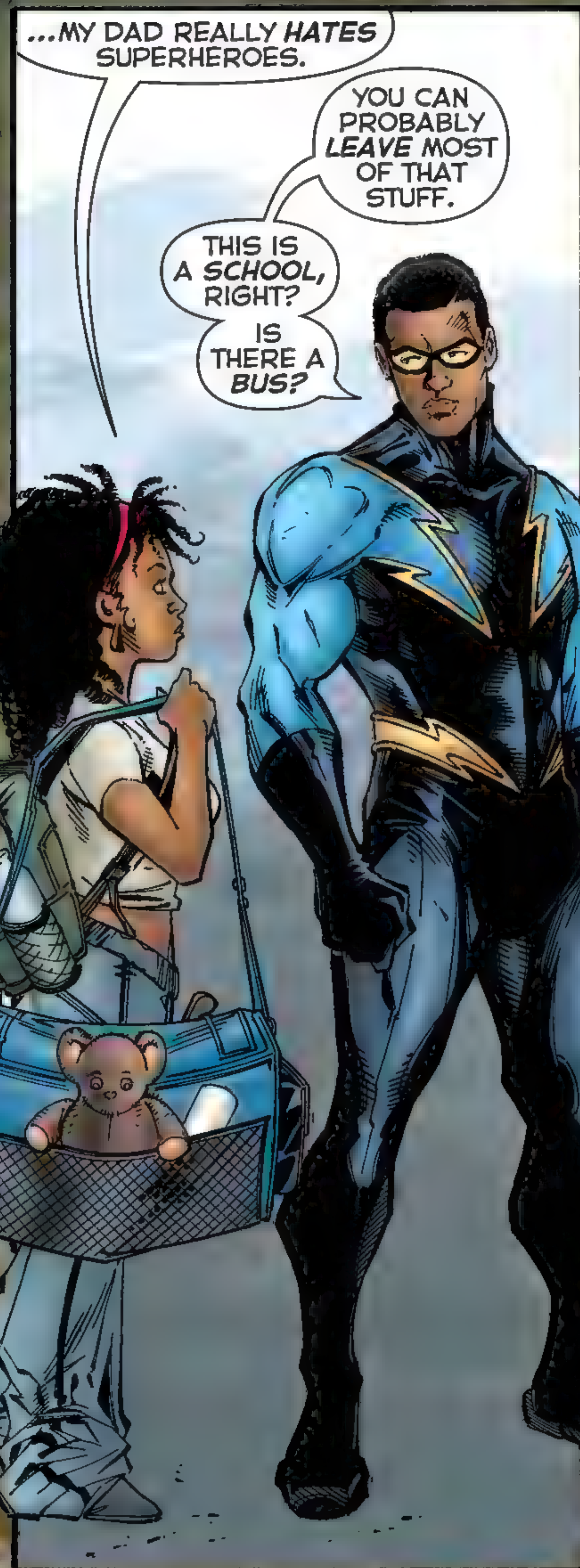
...MY
BAG'S BEEN
READY FOR
DAYS.



WHAT?

WHERE
DID ALL OF
THIS COME
FROM?

YOU ALL
DECIDED
SOMETHING
WITHOUT
ANYBODY
TALKING
TO ME?

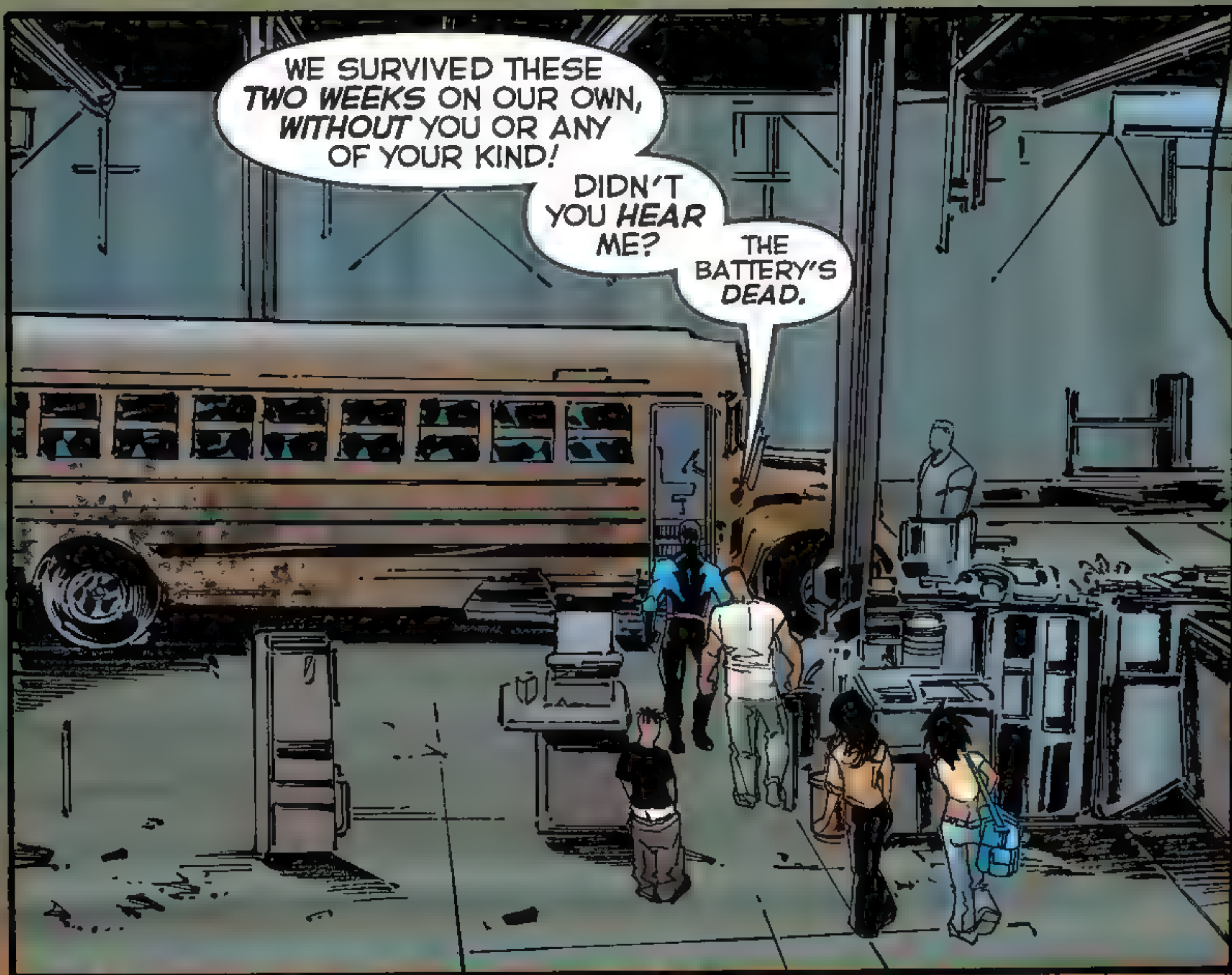


...MY DAD REALLY HATES
SUPERHEROES.

YOU CAN
PROBABLY
LEAVE MOST
OF THAT
STUFF.

THIS IS
A SCHOOL,
RIGHT?

IS
THERE A
BUS?





DAAAAAD!

IT WAS ME!

WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE, MARK, WE'RE TRAPPED.

WAITING TO DIE, WAITING TO BE EATEN UP BY WHATEVER IT IS THE SUPERHEROES COULDN'T STOP THIS TIME...

WHAT?

WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT THAT COMPUTER?

AW, NO... NO. NO.

RICHARDS, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE OF THEM ALL THE TIME.

IF I HADN'T HEARD YOUR WIFE'S S.O.S., YOU'D STILL HAVE BEEN HERE WHEN THEY ARRIVED.

IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.



THIS WOULD BEST BE USED TO DEFEND YOUR FAMILY WITH.

SADDLE UP, MISTER RICHARDS.





COME OUT.

COME OUT.

WHEREVER YOU ARE.

JUSTIFY YOUR LIVES TO DARKSEID.

DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY?

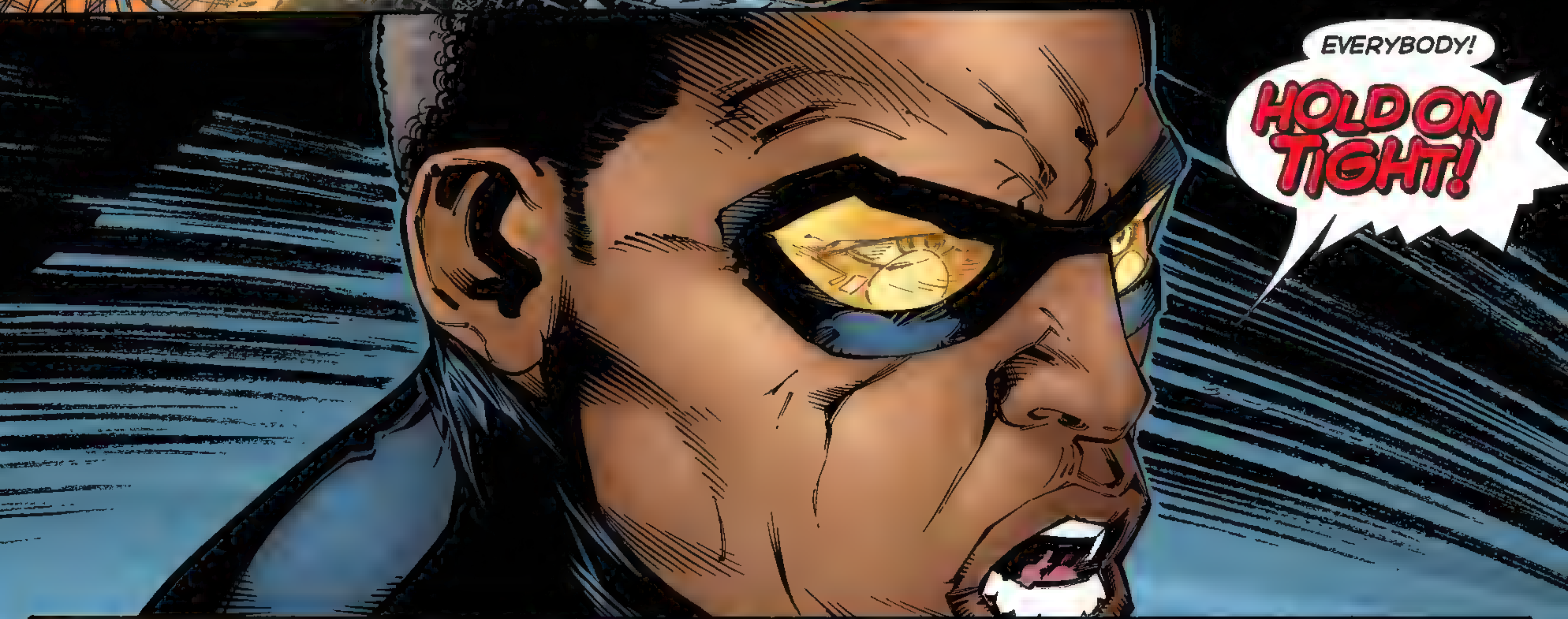
TWO GIRLS.

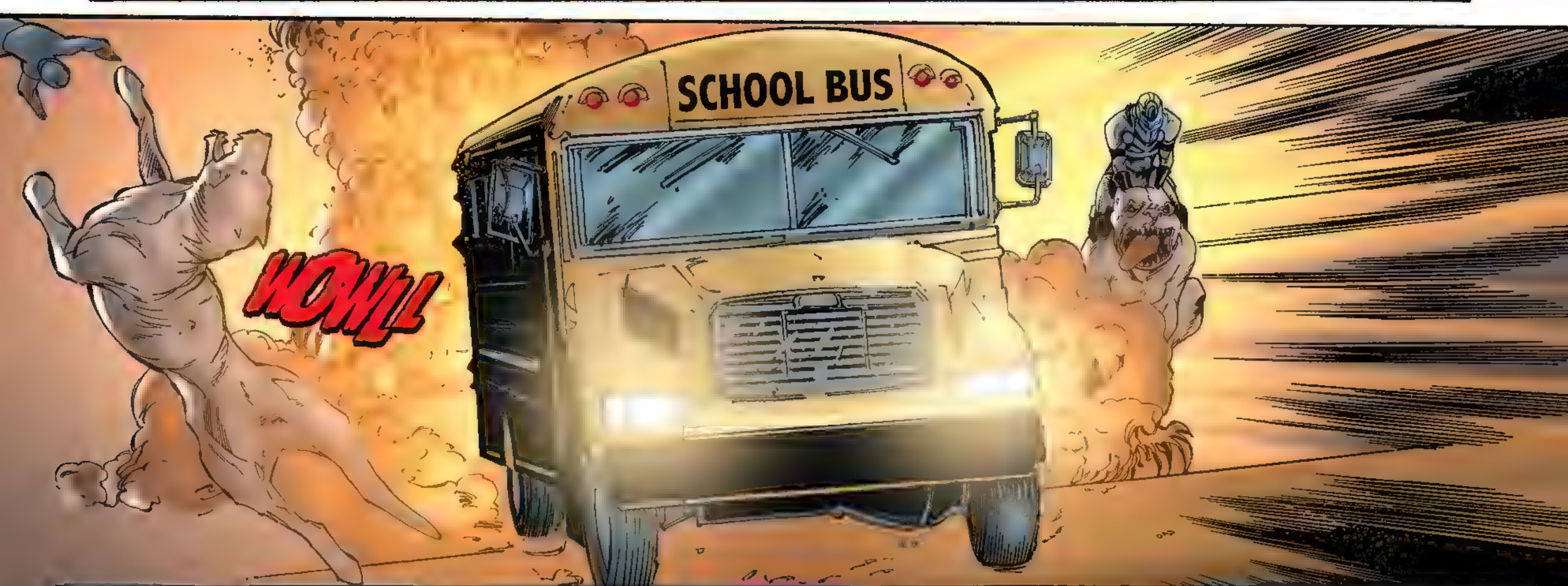
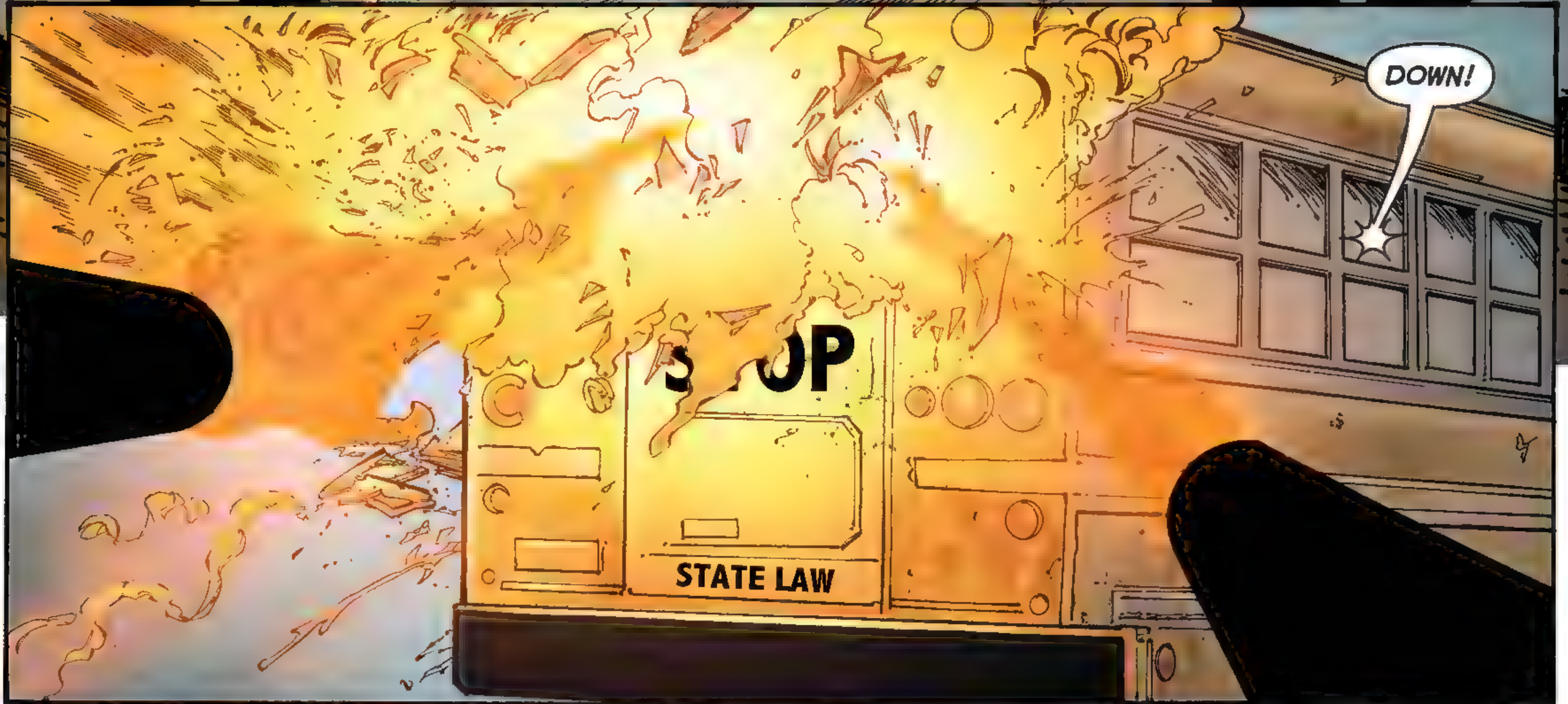
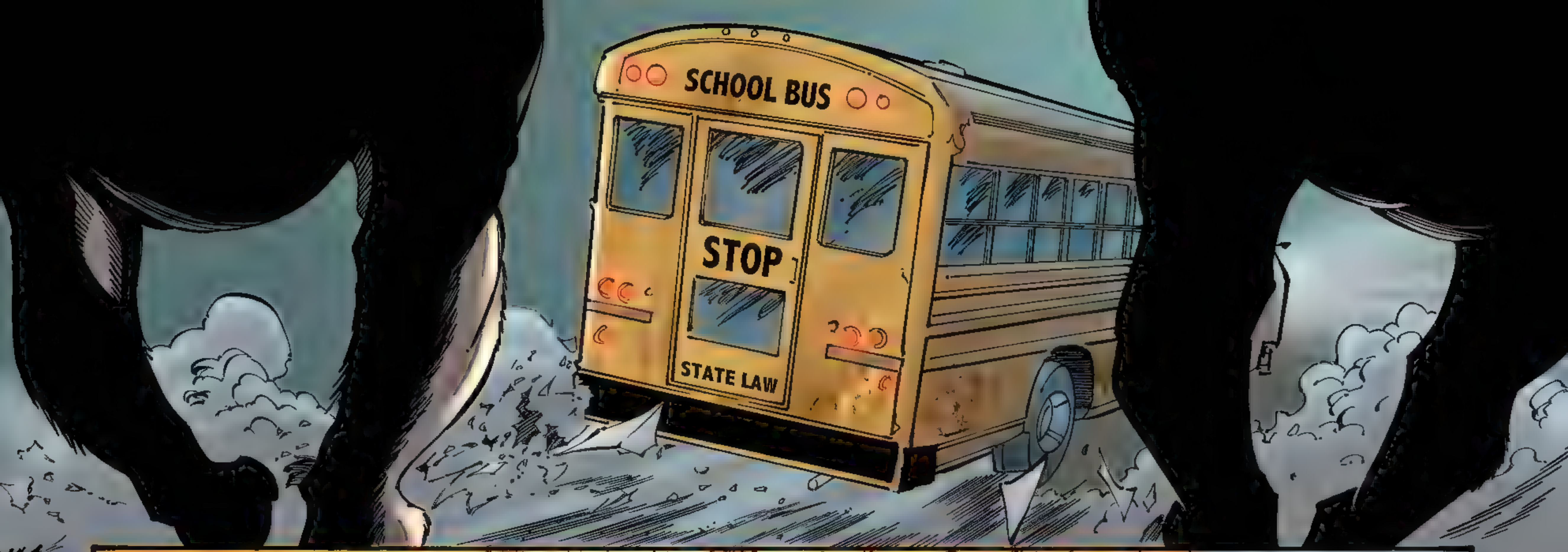
ARE THEY SUPERHEROES TOO?

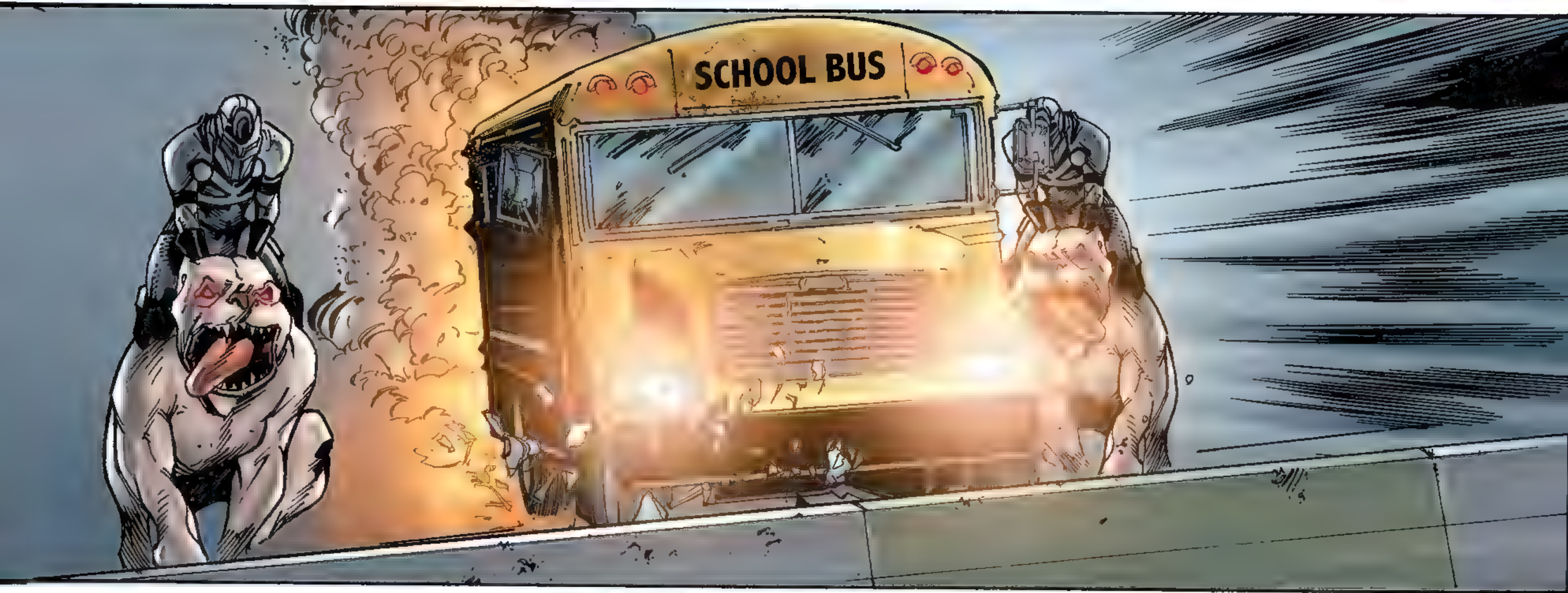
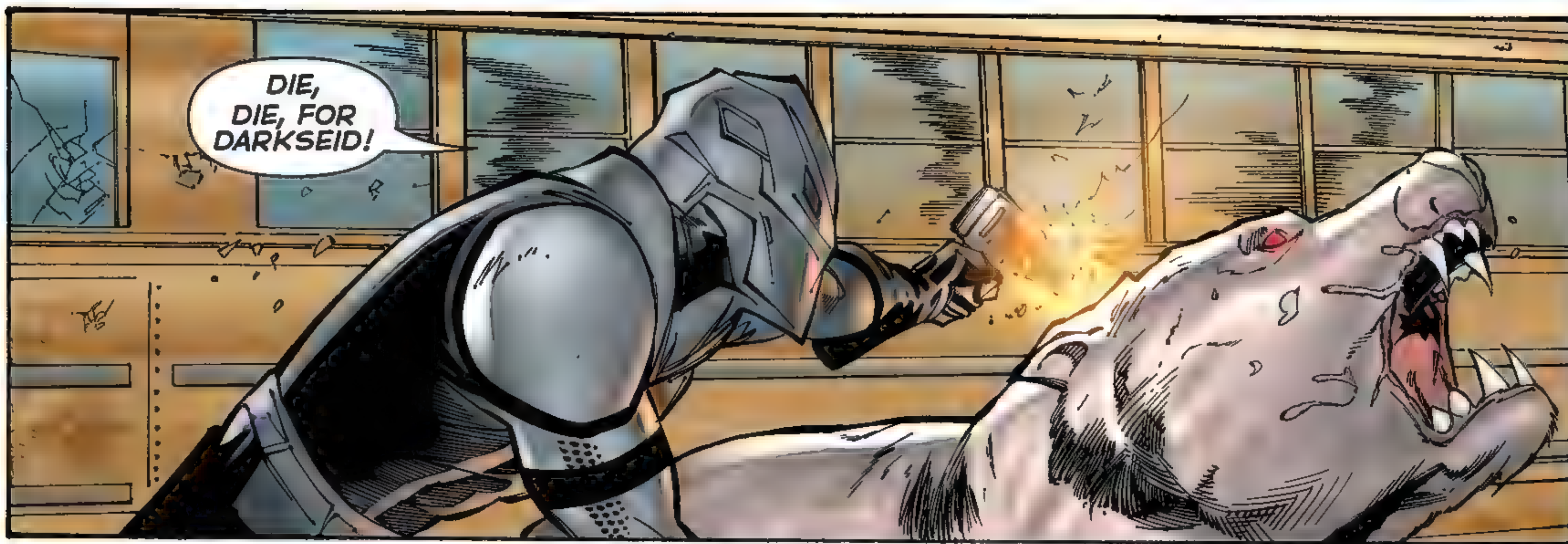
YEAH.

I HOPE YOU'LL GET TO MEET THEM WHEN WE'RE DONE.

ARE WE READY?





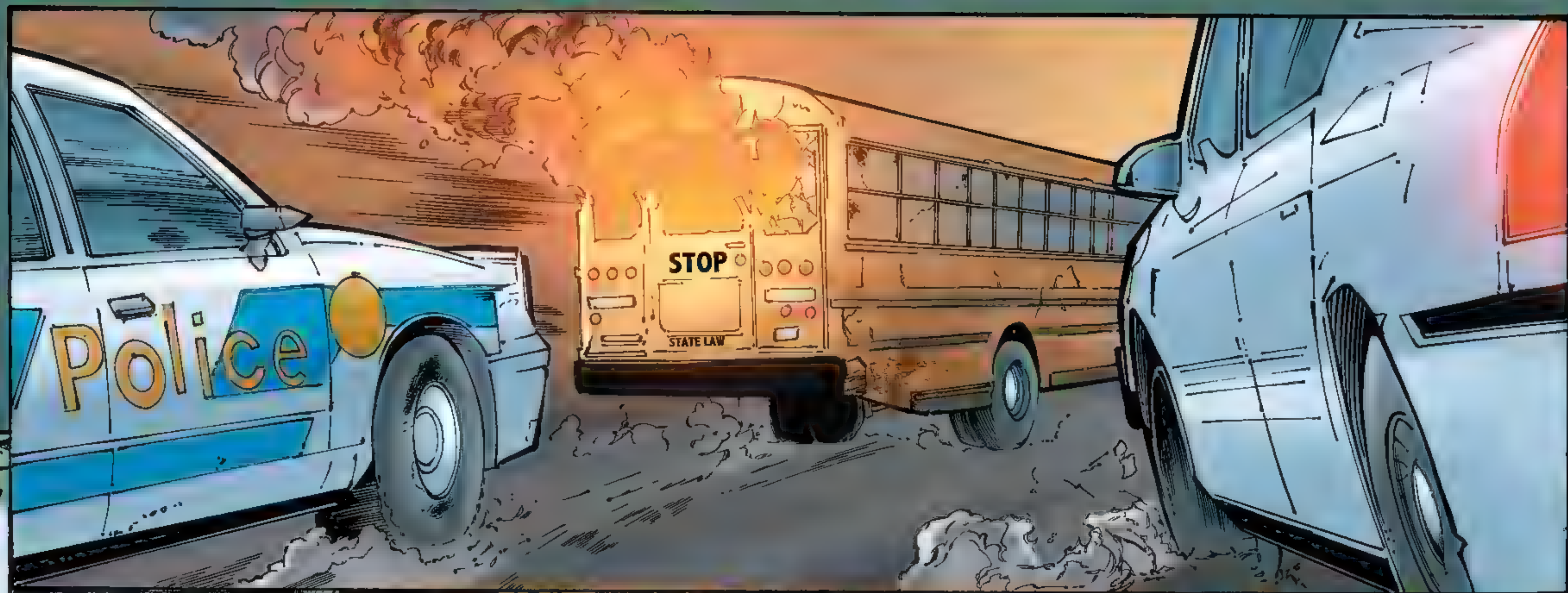




EVERYTHING
GOING TO *PLAN*
UP THERE,
SUPERHERO?



SIT DOWN!
SHUT UP.
I'M
CONCENTRATING.



CONCENTRATING.



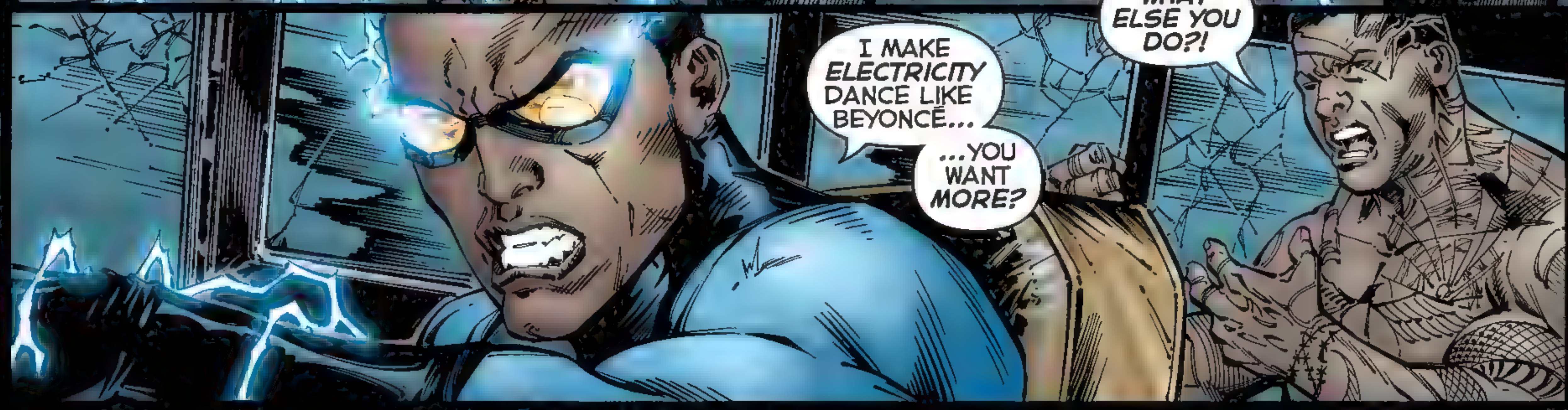
%%!
WAS
THAT?

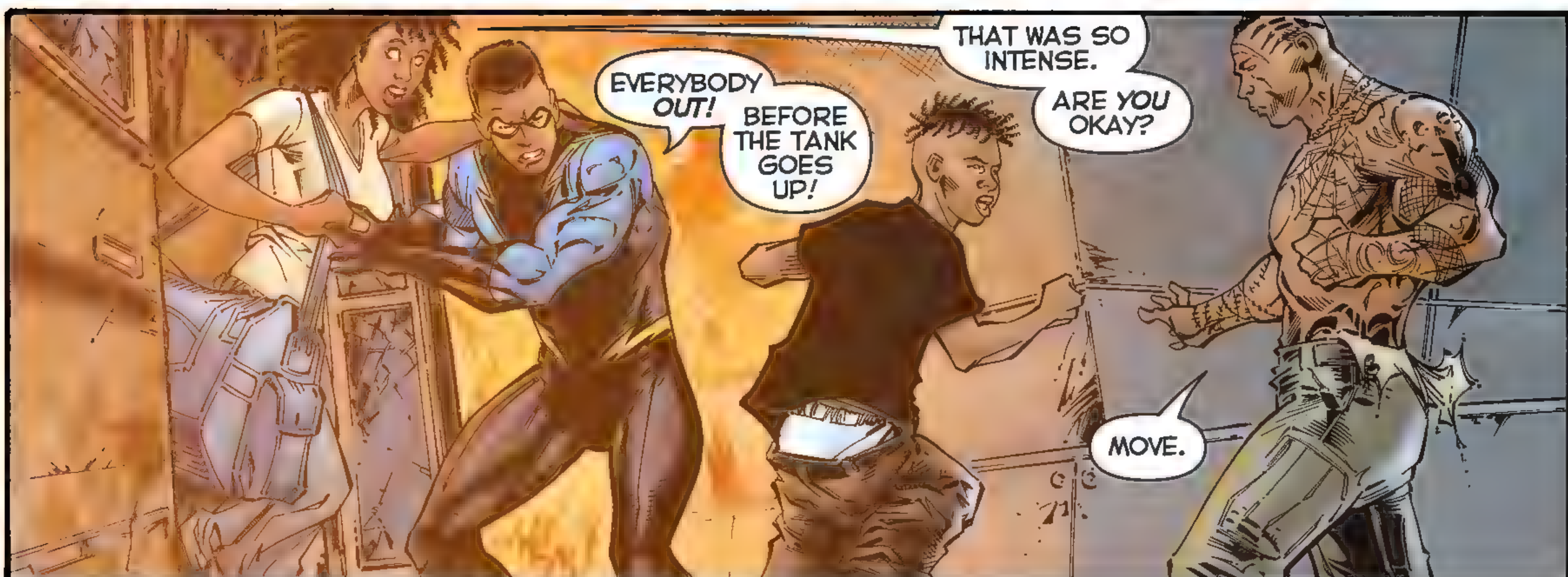
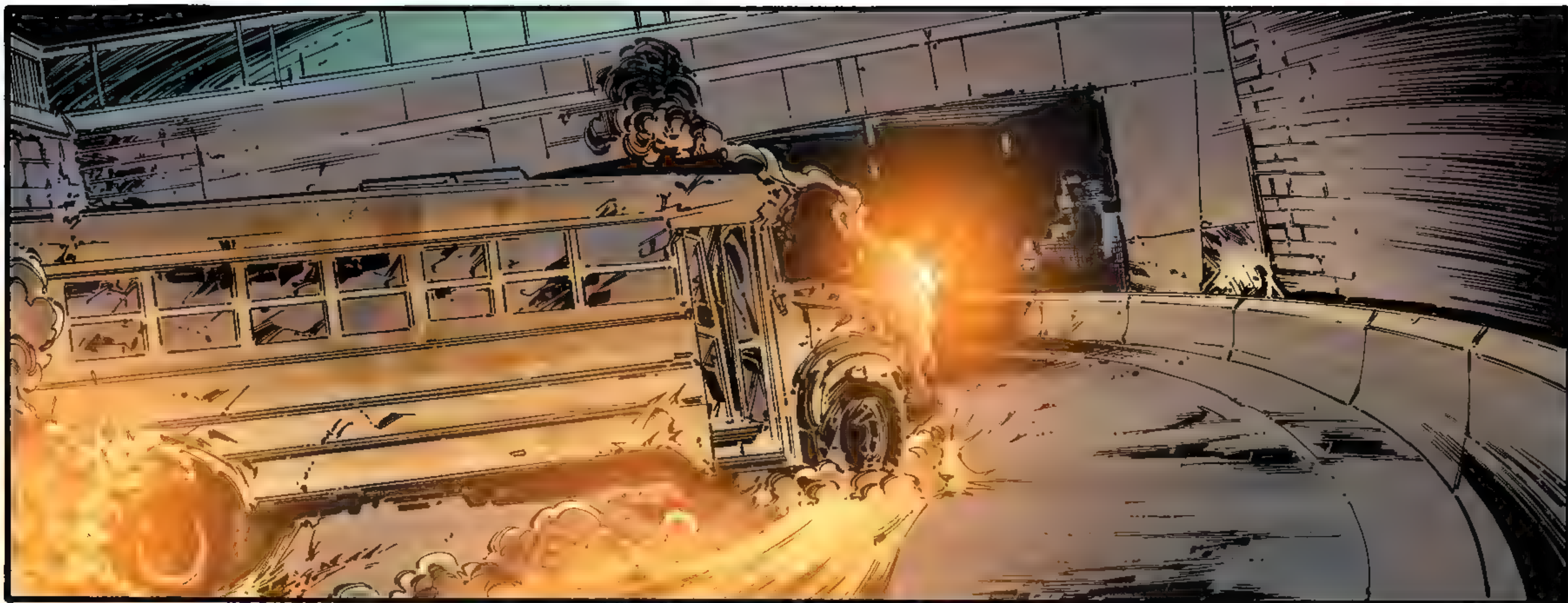
WE'RE
ON
FIRE!

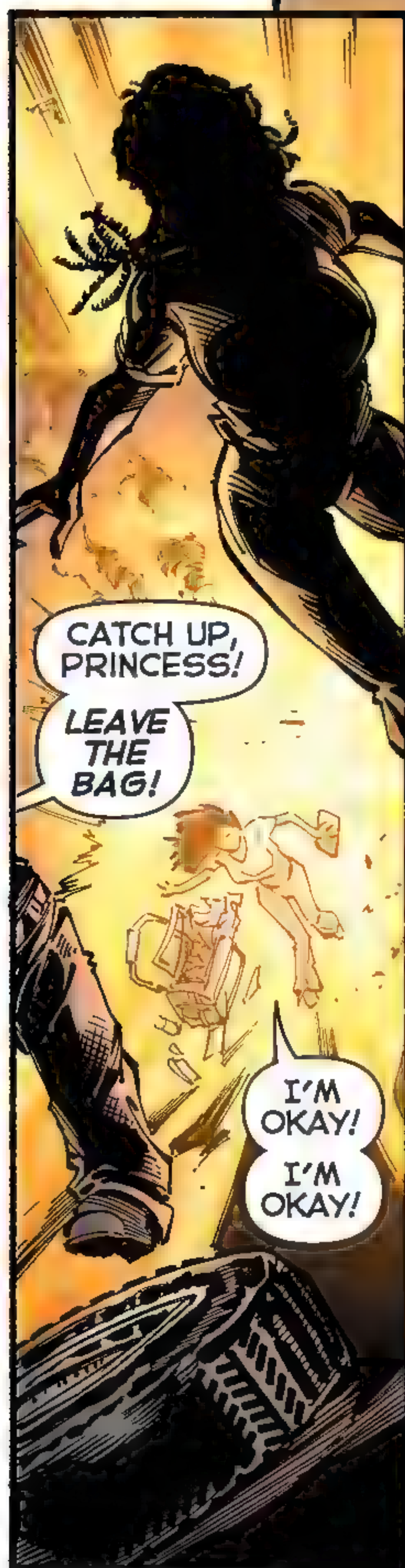
WHAT
ELSE YOU
DO?!

I MAKE
ELECTRICITY
DANCE LIKE
BEYONCÉ...

...YOU
WANT
MORE?





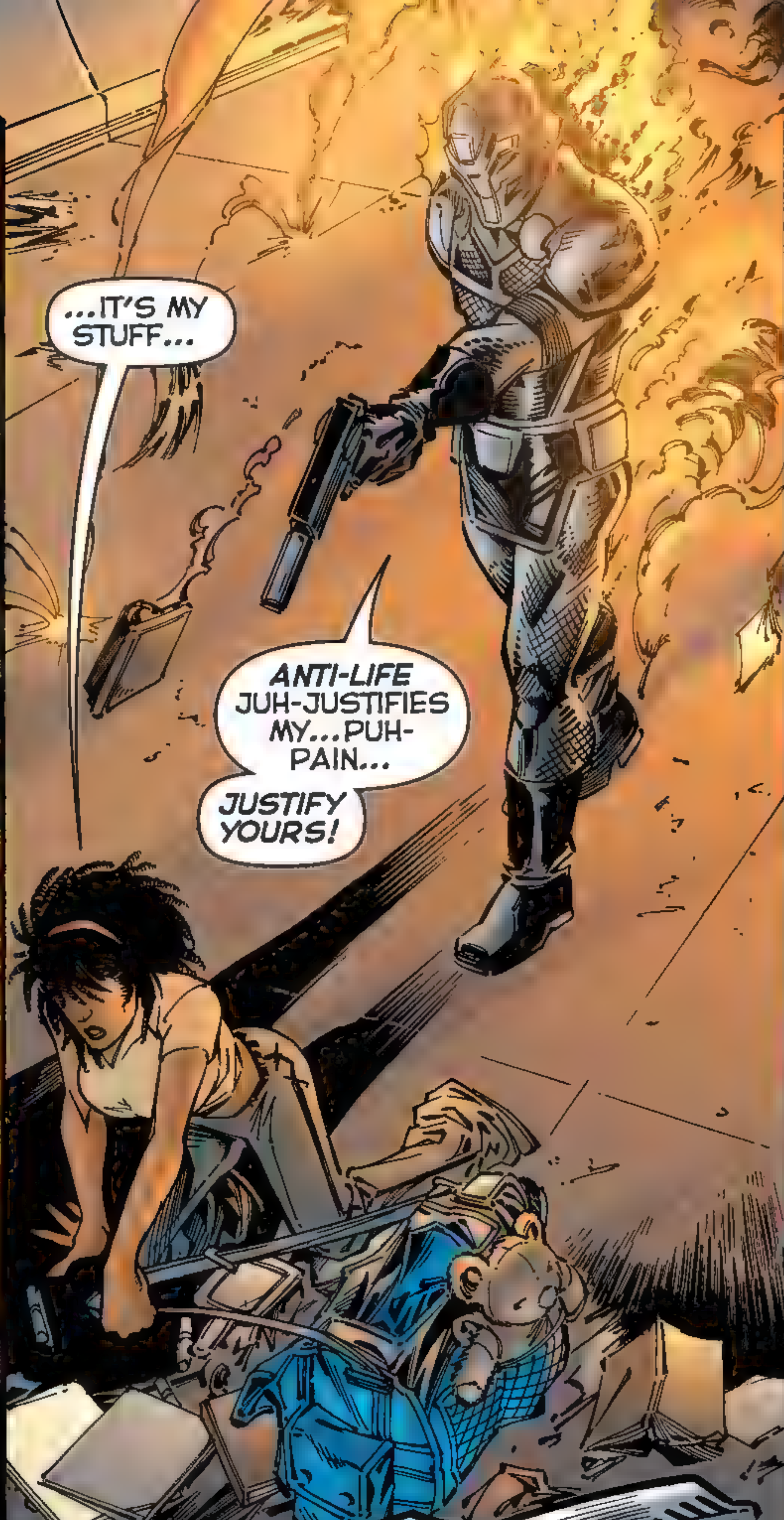


**CATCH UP,
PRINCESS!**

**LEAVE
THE
BAG!**

I'M
OKAY!

I'M
OKAY!



...IT'S MY
STUFF...

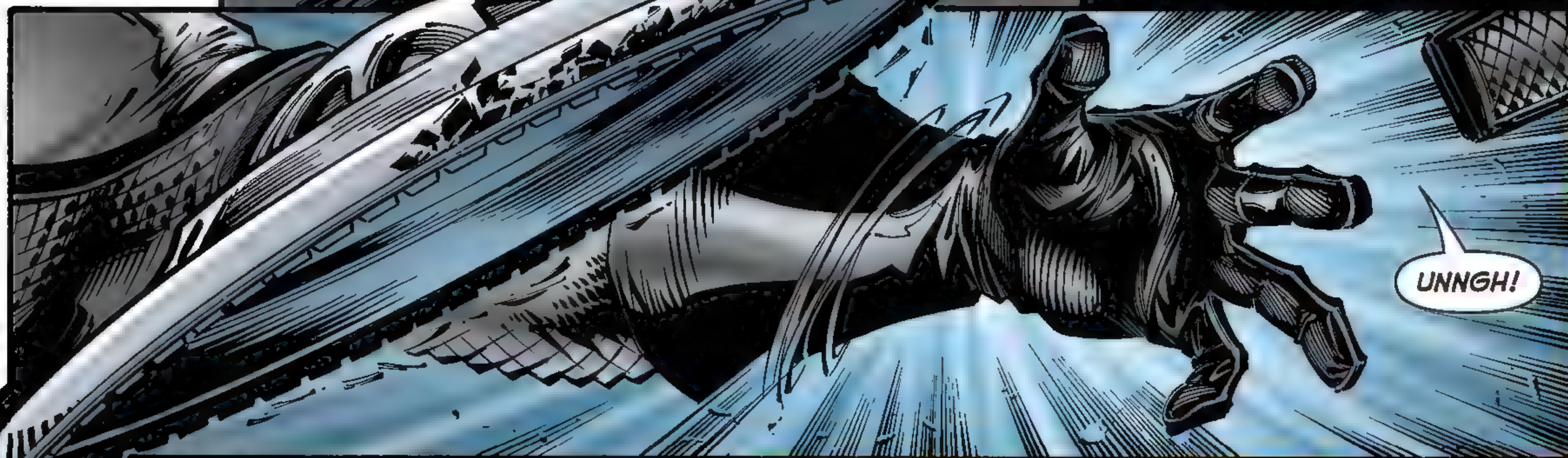
**ANTI-LIFE
JUH-JUSTIFIES
MY...PUH-
PAIN...**

JUSTIFY YOURS!



LAUREL!

HUBCAP.



UNNGH!



IT'S OKAY.

EVERYTHING'S
OKAY.

DADDY'S
TATTOOS GOT
HIM.

IIIIIIIIII

...YOU'RE A
TEACHER BUT
YOU DON'T LOOK
MUCH LIKE ANY
TEACHER I
EVER HAD.

MY DAD
SAYS THE
BEST SCHOOL
IS THE
STREET.

WELL, THERE'S A
LOT TO BE SAID FOR
FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE,
AND THE MEANING OF LIFE
IS CERTAINLY IN THE
LESSONS WE LEARN...

BUT FORMAL
EDUCATION ENRICHES
AND PROVIDES A
TRIED-AND-TESTED
FRAMEWORK TO HELP
US GET THE MOST
OUT OF THOSE
EXPERIENCES.

WHAT?

SEE, MY KIDS
DON'T NEED YOU
OR ANYBODY LIKE
YOU TELLING US
HOW TO THINK.

YOU GOT A
PLAN HERE,
JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

WHAT'S UP, MISTER
RICHARDS?

SCARED THEY
MIGHT TURN INTO
SUPERHEROES?

MY PLAN IS
TO RENDEZVOUS
WITH A RELIEF
CHOPPER AND
GET YOU ON
YOUR WAY TO
WATCHTOWER 6.

THEN I TURN
RIGHT AROUND
AND GO BACK FOR THE
COLLEAGUE I WAS AIMING
TO RESCUE BEFORE YOUR
FAMILY'S SECURITY
TOOK PRIORITY.

I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T
SEE PAST MY COSTUME.

RIGHT NOW, WE
NEED A BARRIER
TO BUY OURSELVES
SOME TIME.

HOW ABOUT
YOU SET YOUR
SHOULDER TO
THE WHEEL,
RICHARDS?

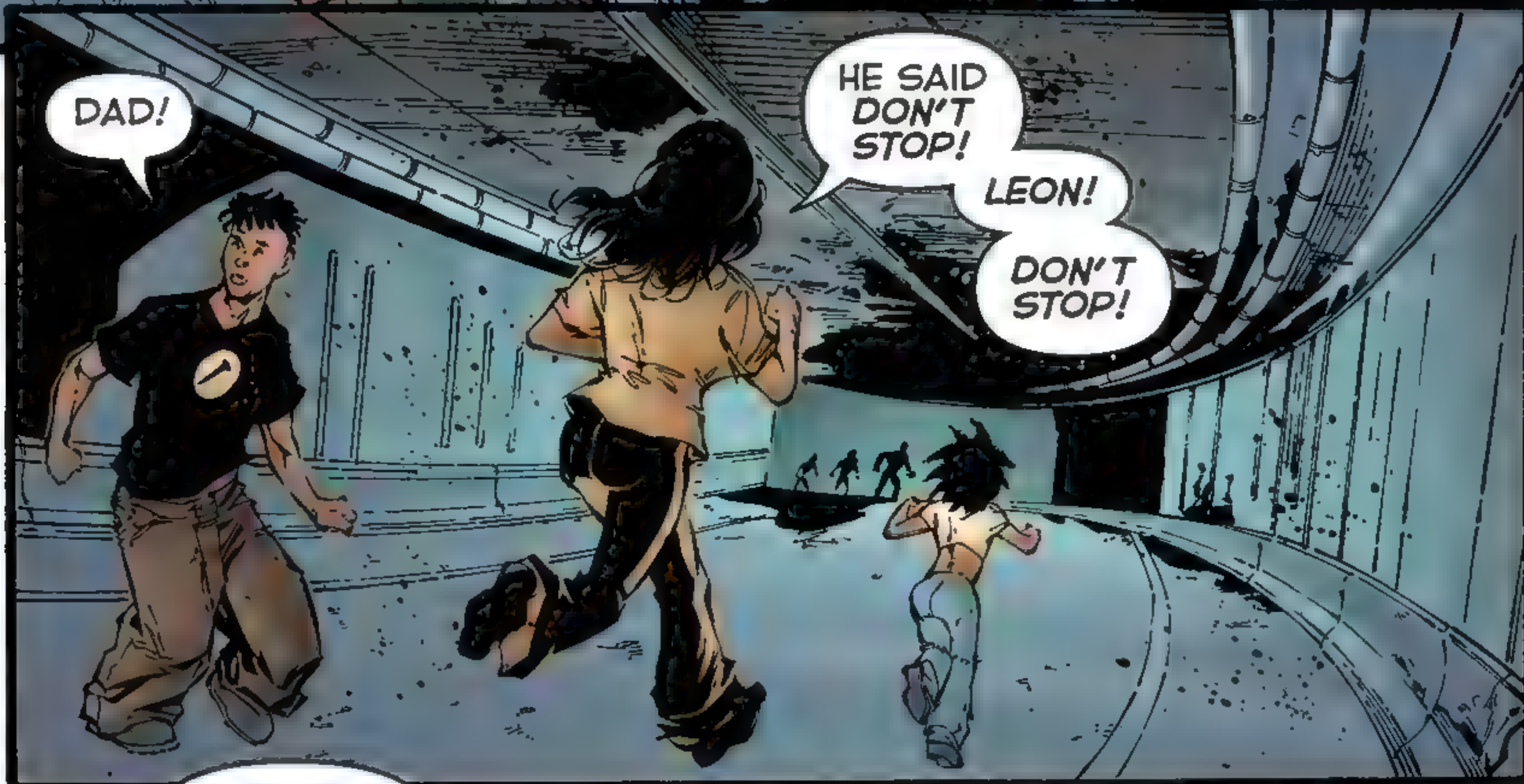


SO WHAT
MAKES YOU A
SUPERHERO
AND ME A
LOSER?

I DIDN'T
CALL YOU A
LOSER.

WE'RE NOT ABOUT
THE NAMES PEOPLE
CALL US, WE'RE ABOUT
WHAT WE DO, DON'T
YOU THINK?

YOU HAVE
POWERS, USE
THEM FOR WHAT
YOU KNOW IS
RIGHT AND LEAVE
THE LABELS TO
HISTORY AND
THE MEDIA.

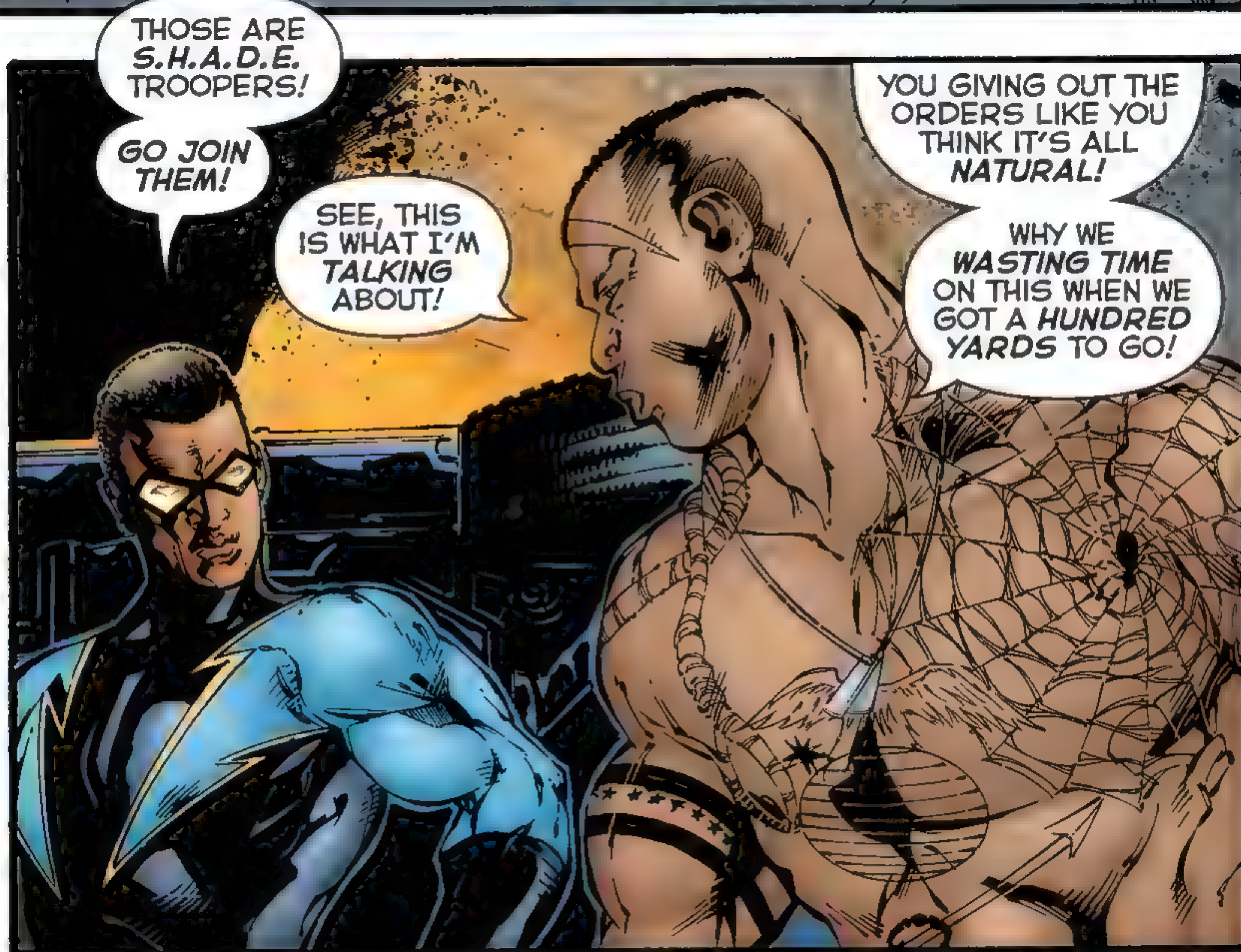


DAD!

HE SAID
DON'T
STOP!

LEON!

DON'T
STOP!



THOSE ARE
S.H.A.D.E.
TROOPERS!

GO JOIN
THEM!

SEE, THIS
IS WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT!

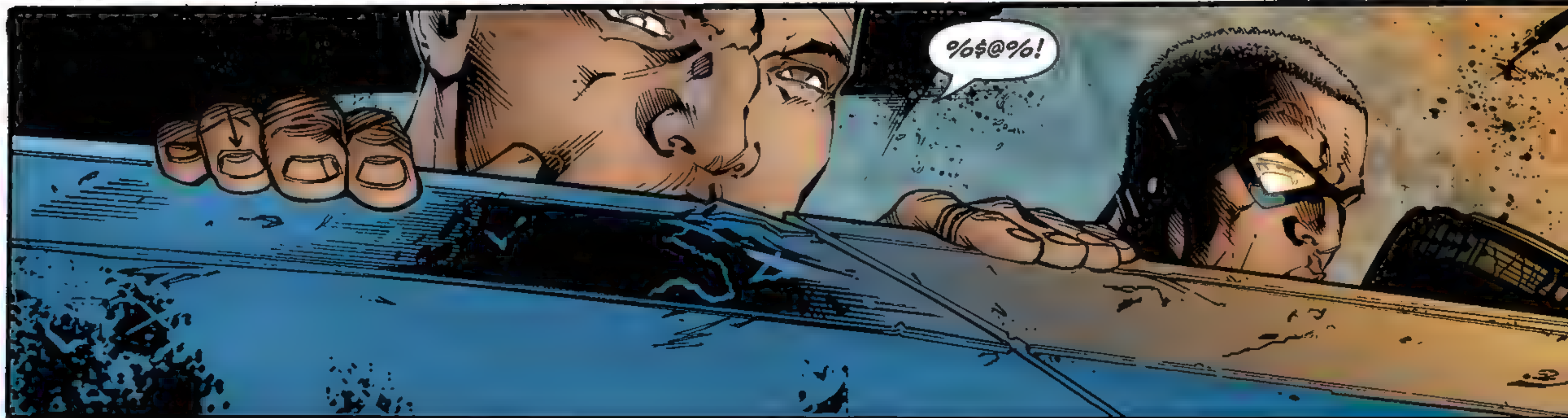
YOU GIVING OUT THE
ORDERS LIKE YOU
THINK IT'S ALL
NATURAL!

WHY WE
WASTING TIME
ON THIS WHEN WE
GOT A HUNDRED
YARDS TO GO!



WITHOUT THIS,
WE WON'T MAKE
THE HUNDRED
YARDS.

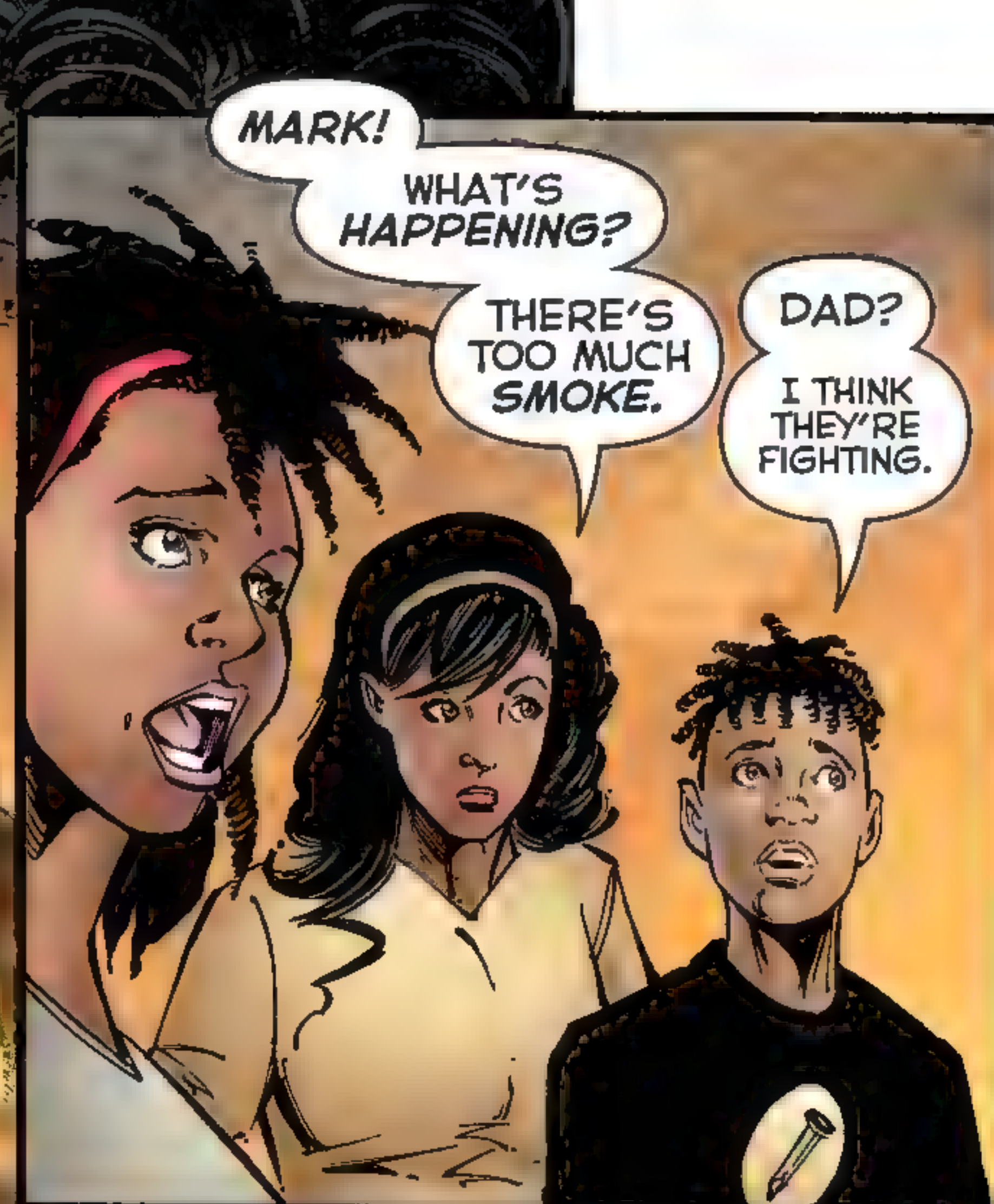
TAKE A
LOOK.



%\$@%!



HERE'S
WHERE WE ALL
SAY "NO" TO
THAT.



MARK!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

THERE'S
TOO MUCH
SMOKE.

DAD?
I THINK
THEY'RE
FIGHTING.



S.H.A.D.E.
RESCUE!

THIS WAY,
PEOPLE!

WE HAVE
TO TAKE
OFF!



YOU HAVE TO *PROMISE*
ME SOMETHING, MISTER
RICHARDS.

THERE'S
SOMETHING I
NEED YOU TO
MEMORIZE.

A CIRCUIT.

I DON'T
CARE *WHAT*
YOU THINK
ABOUT
ME.



THIS ISN'T
JUST SOME
SUPERHERO
WAR, SOME
CRISIS.

OUR ENTIRE WORLD,
OUR *REALITY*, IS
TRANSFORMING
INTO THE BROKEN,
DERANGED *PHYSICAL*
EXPRESSION OF A
MONSTROUS, ALIEN
WILL AND WE ALL
HAVE TO FIGHT IT.

THIS CIRCUIT,
THIS SIGN BEGAN TO
APPEAR ALL OVER THE
WORLD BEFORE ALL
THIS STARTED.

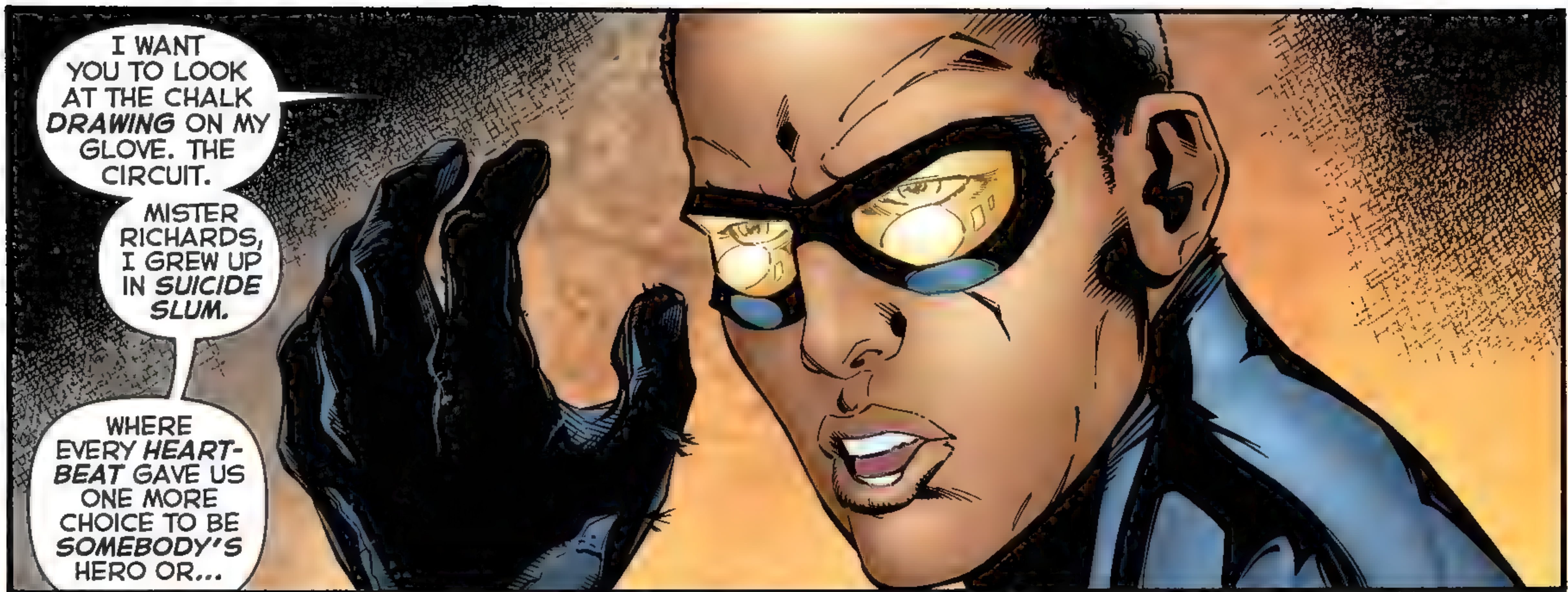


WHAT?

WHY WOULD
THEY BE
FIGHTING?

IT'S
OKAY,
MOM.

I WON'T
LET DAD
DOWN.



I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT THE CHALK DRAWING ON MY GLOVE. THE CIRCUIT.

MISTER RICHARDS, I GREW UP IN SUICIDE SLUM.

WHERE EVERY HEART-BEAT GAVE US ONE MORE CHOICE TO BE SOMEBODY'S HERO OR...



NGAH!



I CAN HOLD THEM OFF.

CHOOSE, RICHARDS!



PUT THAT %@&%#* THING AWAY!

GO!

GO!



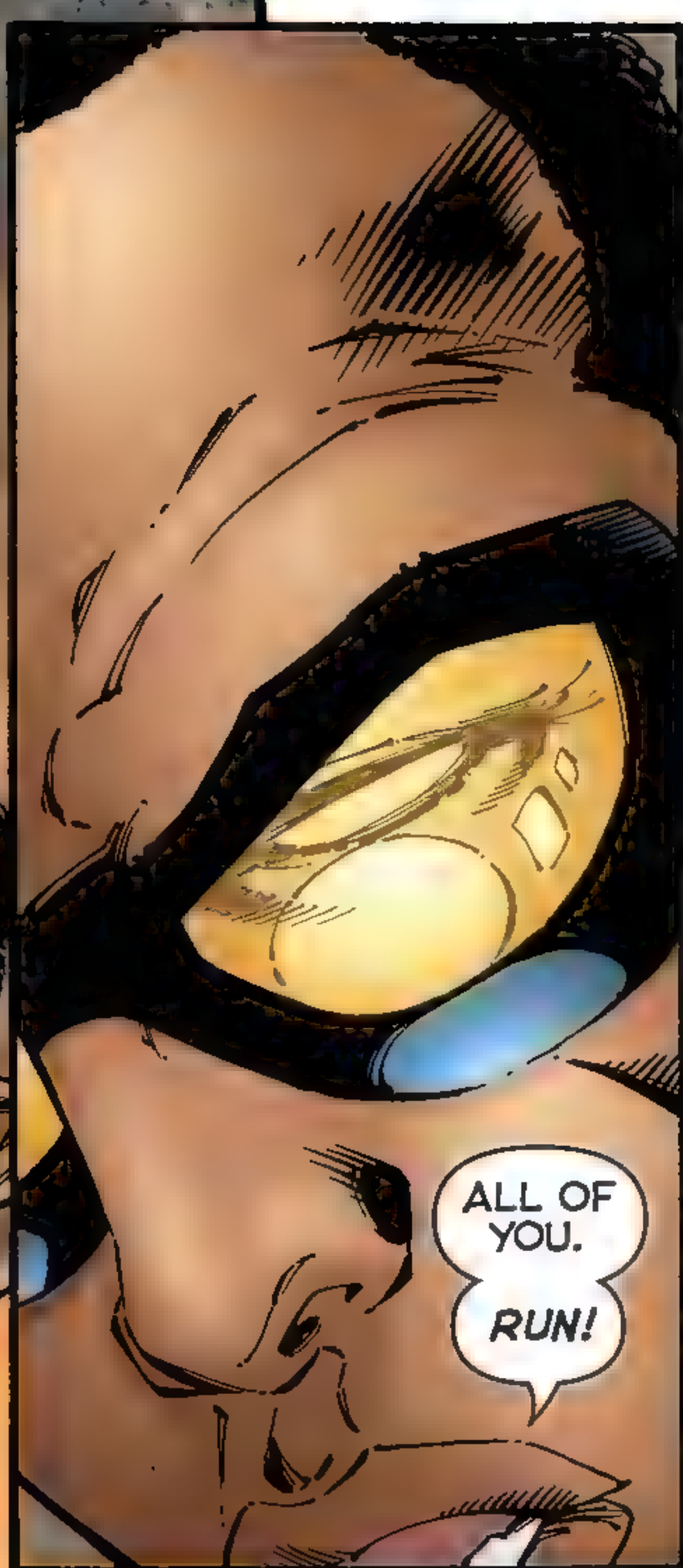
WHAT DID YOU DO?

I DID IT FOR YOU, DAD.

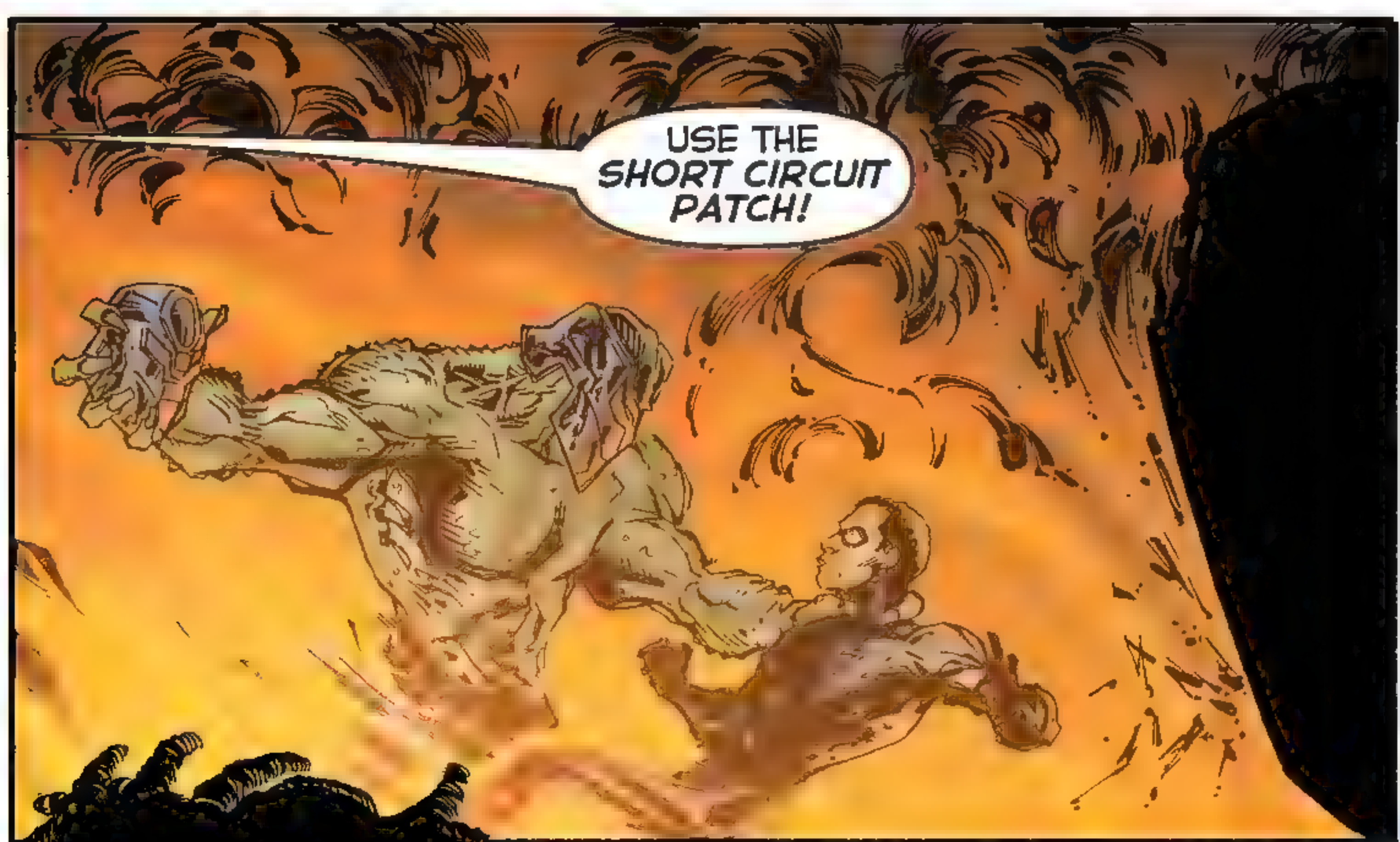
I DID IT FOR YOU!

MARK, PLEASE.

OH GOD NO.



ALL OF YOU.
RUN!



...THAT WAS THE LAST THING WE SAW.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

I'M SO SORRY: HE WAS A GOOD MAN.



I'M SO SORRY.

WE HAVE TO GO BACK FOR MY DAD!

I'M GOING BACK!

NEGATIVE, THUNDER.

WE NEED ALL OUR METAS FOR THE OMEGA INITIATIVE!



THERE WAS SOMEBODY TRAPPED IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE.

MARK SAID HE HAD A CHOICE TO MAKE.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HUSBAND, HE FINALLY REALIZED WHAT WE ALWAYS KNEW...

MARK RICHARDS, THE TATTOOED-MAN WAS NEVER A SUPER-CRIMINAL.

OR A SUPER-VILLAIN.

HE WAS MORE THAN THAT.

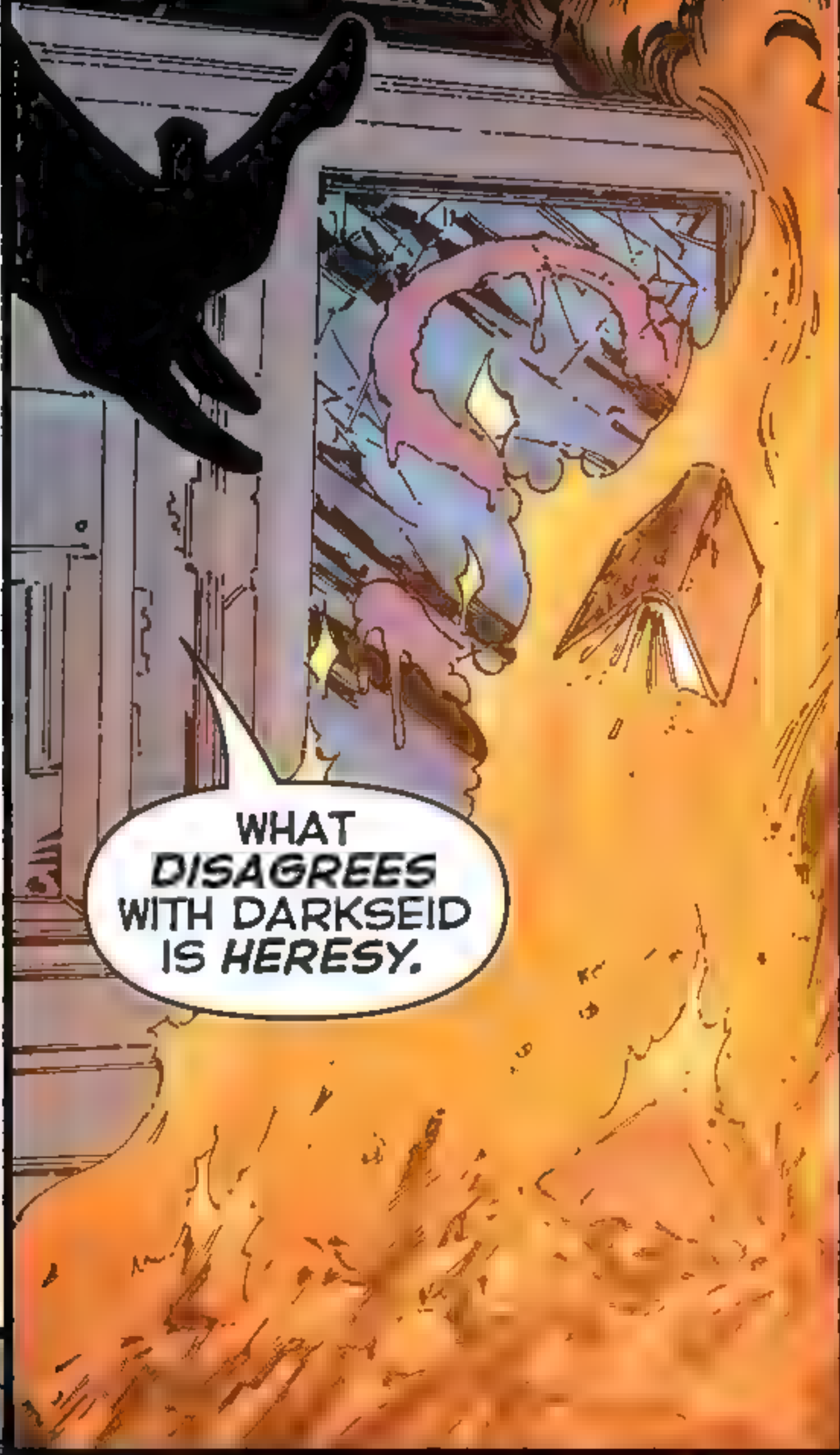
SPEAKING OF WHICH, TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUSBAND, MRS. RICHARDS?

HE WAS A SUPERHERO ALL THIS TIME.





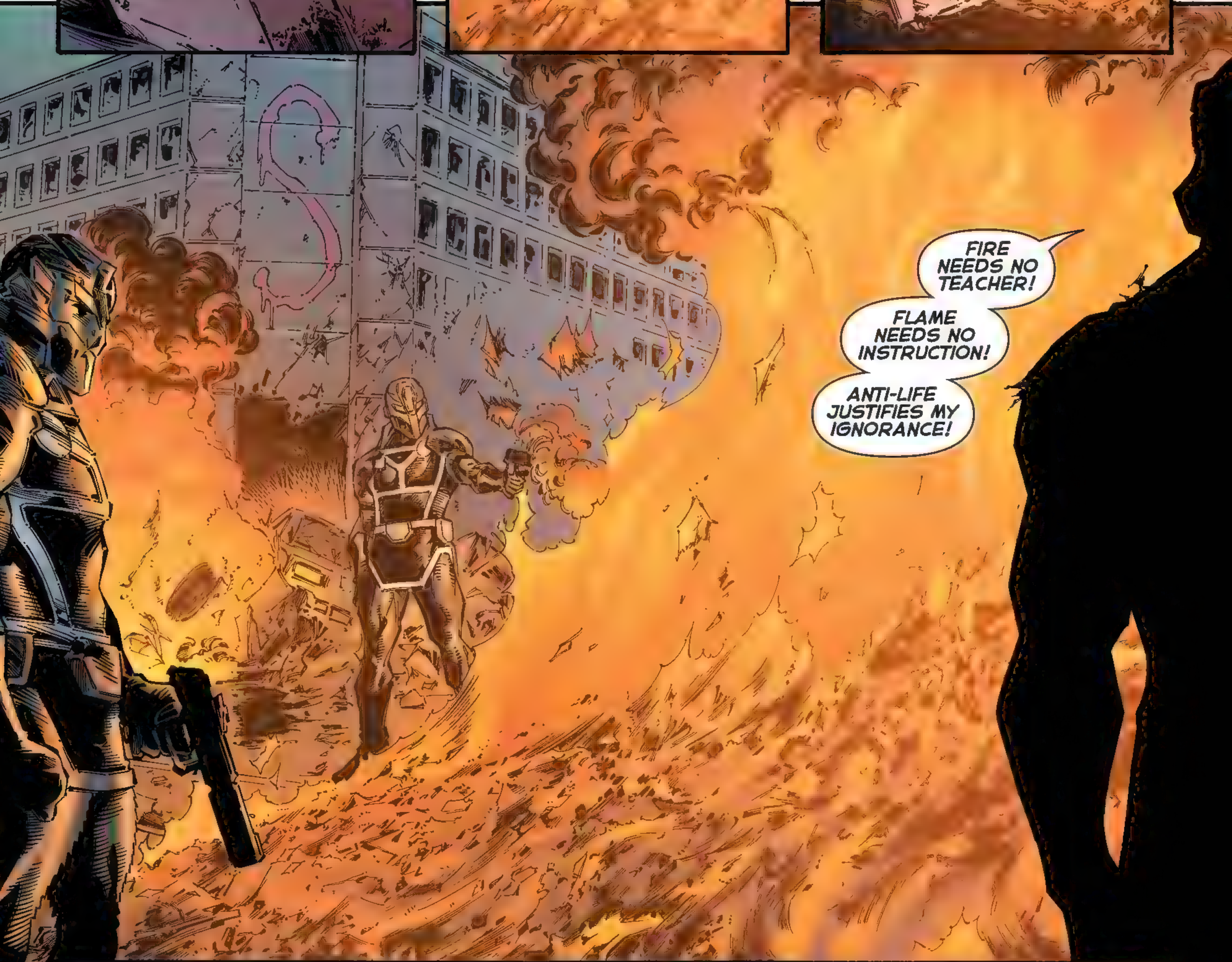
HRR.
GARBAGE.



WHAT
DISAGREES
WITH DARKSEID
IS HERESY.



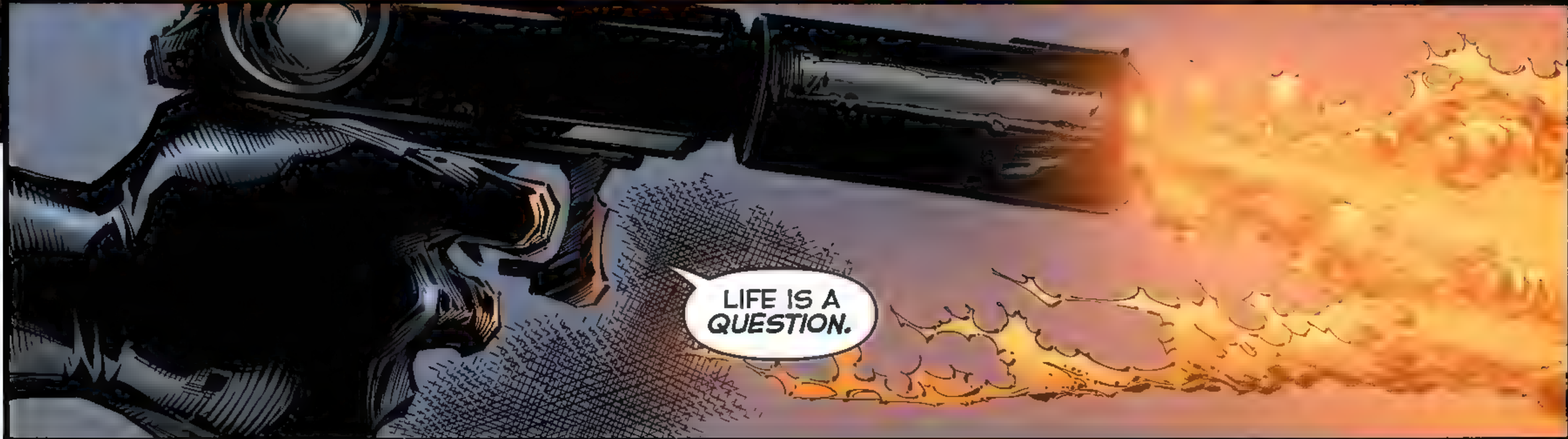
WHAT
AGREES WITH
DARKSEID IS
SUPERFLUOUS.



FIRE
NEEDS NO
TEACHER!

FLAME
NEEDS NO
INSTRUCTION!

ANTI-LIFE
JUSTIFIES MY
IGNORANCE!



LIFE IS A
QUESTION.



ANTI-LIFE
IS THE
ANSWER.



DARKSEID DAYS

GRANT MORRISON
writer

J.G. JONES, CARLOS PACHECO & JESUS MERINO
artists

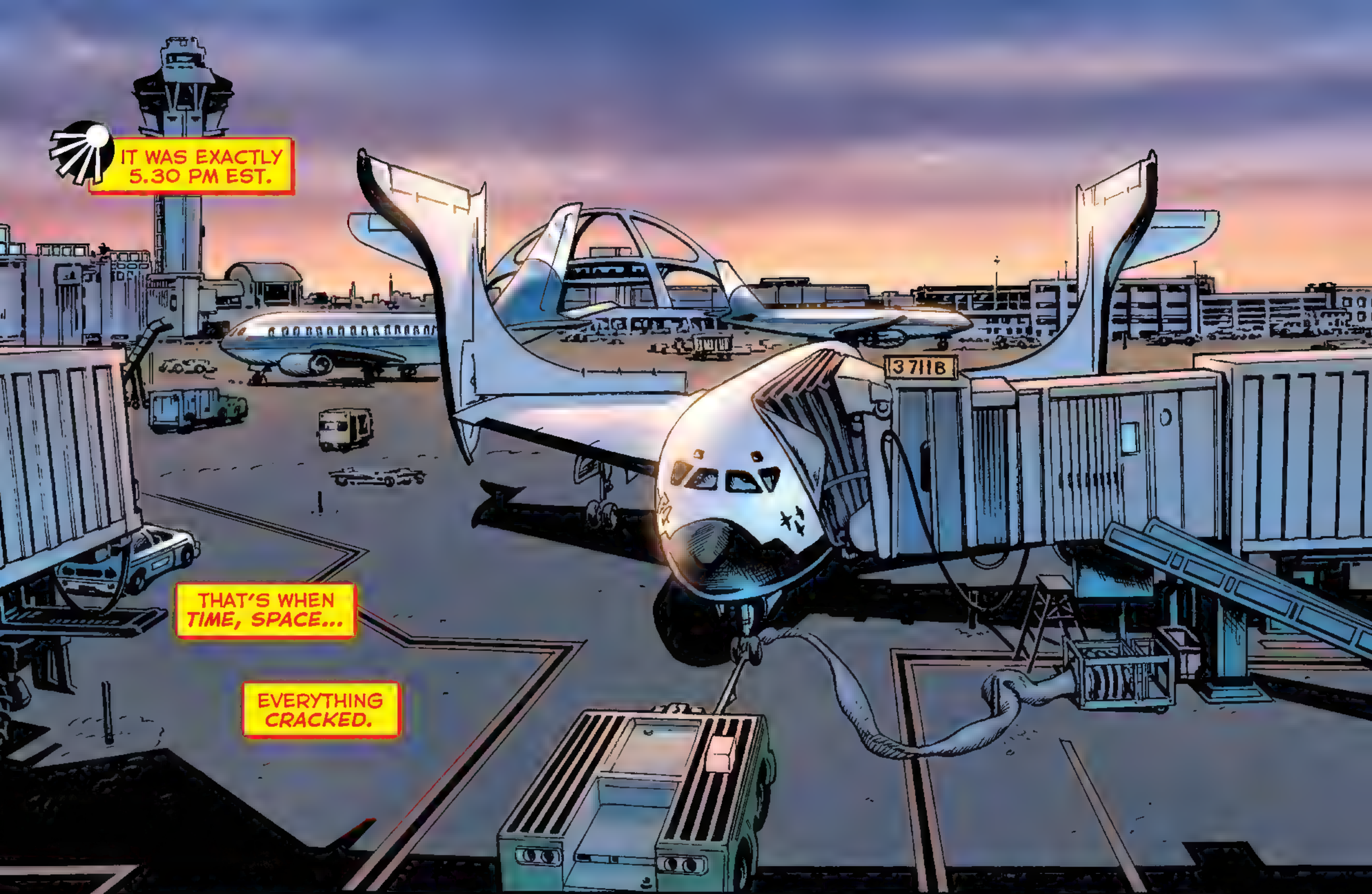
ALEX SINCLAIR
colorist

ROB LEIGH
letterer

J.G. JONES
cover artist

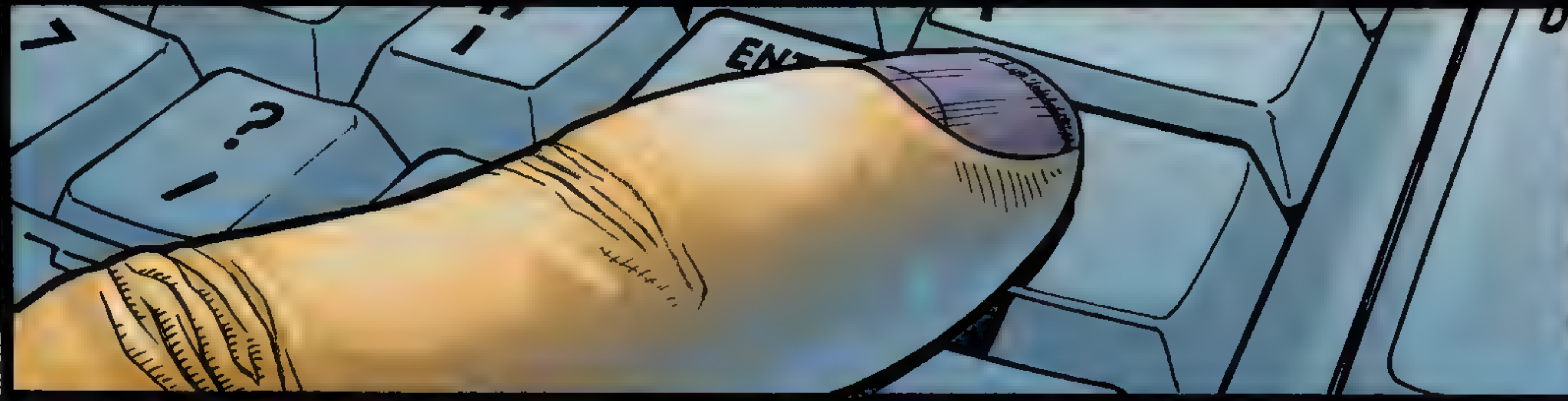


IT WAS EXACTLY
5.30 PM EST.



THAT'S WHEN
TIME, SPACE...

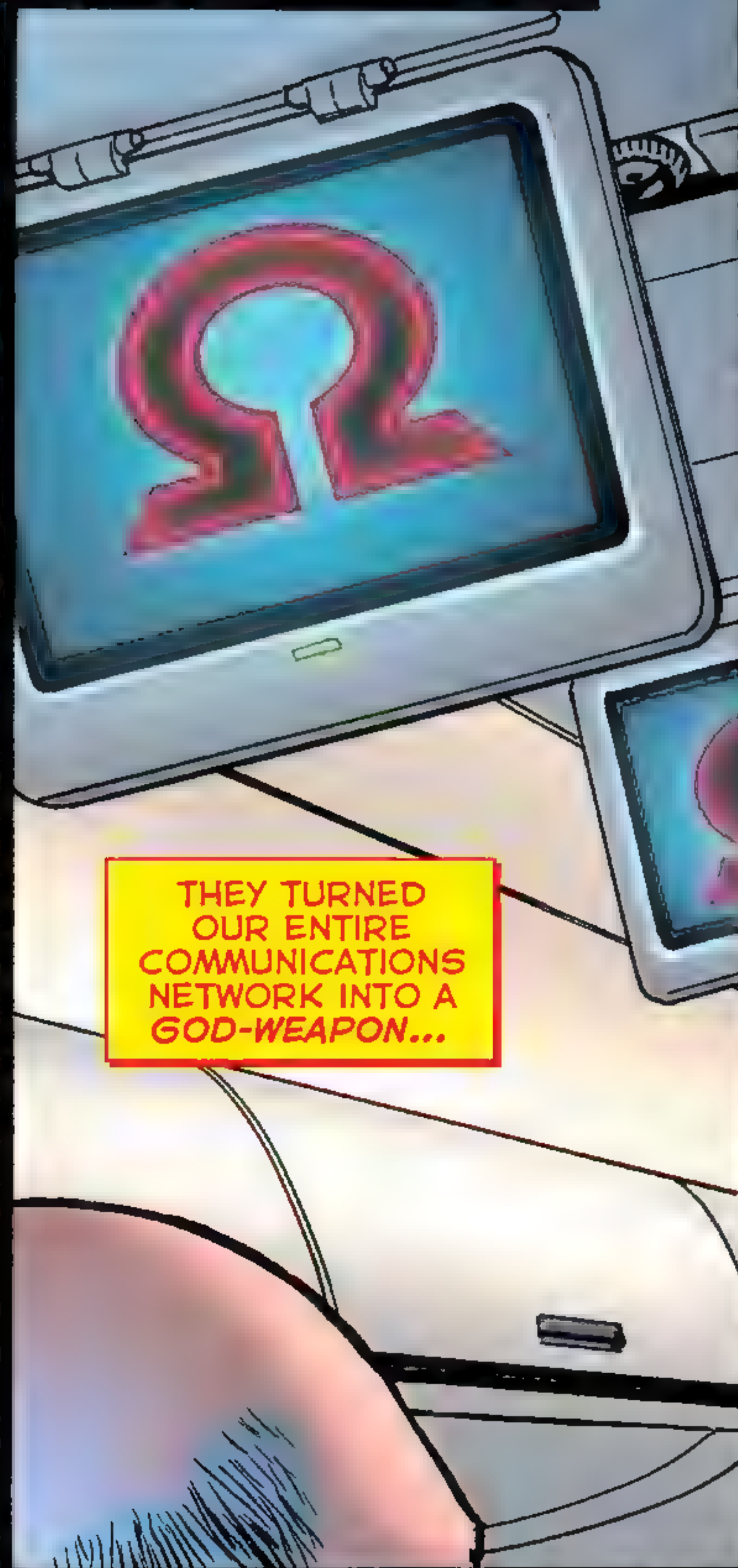
EVERYTHING
CRACKED.



HI, I'M
CAROL FERRIS,
CHAIRMAN OF FERRIS
INTERATLANTIC
AIRLINES.

THEY RECREATED OUR
TECHNOLOGY AND MADE IT
DO IMPOSSIBLE THINGS.

WELCOME
ABOARD THIS
FERRIS AIR...
VVXXIX

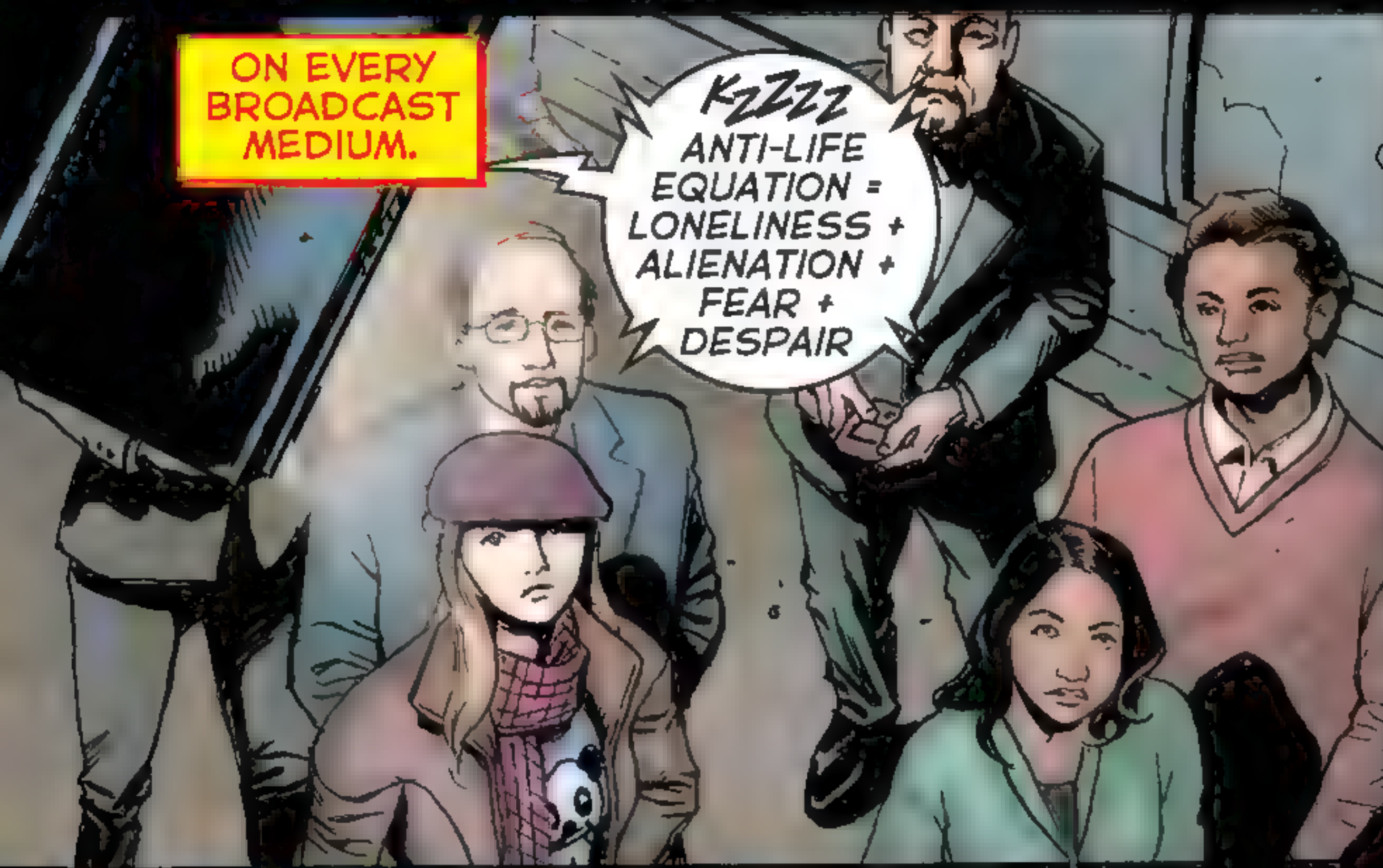


THEY TURNED
OUR ENTIRE
COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK INTO A
GOD-WEAPON...



THEY STRUCK
EVERYWHERE, AT
THE SAME TIME.

MIND
THE GAP. MIND
THE GAP. MIND
ZXXX

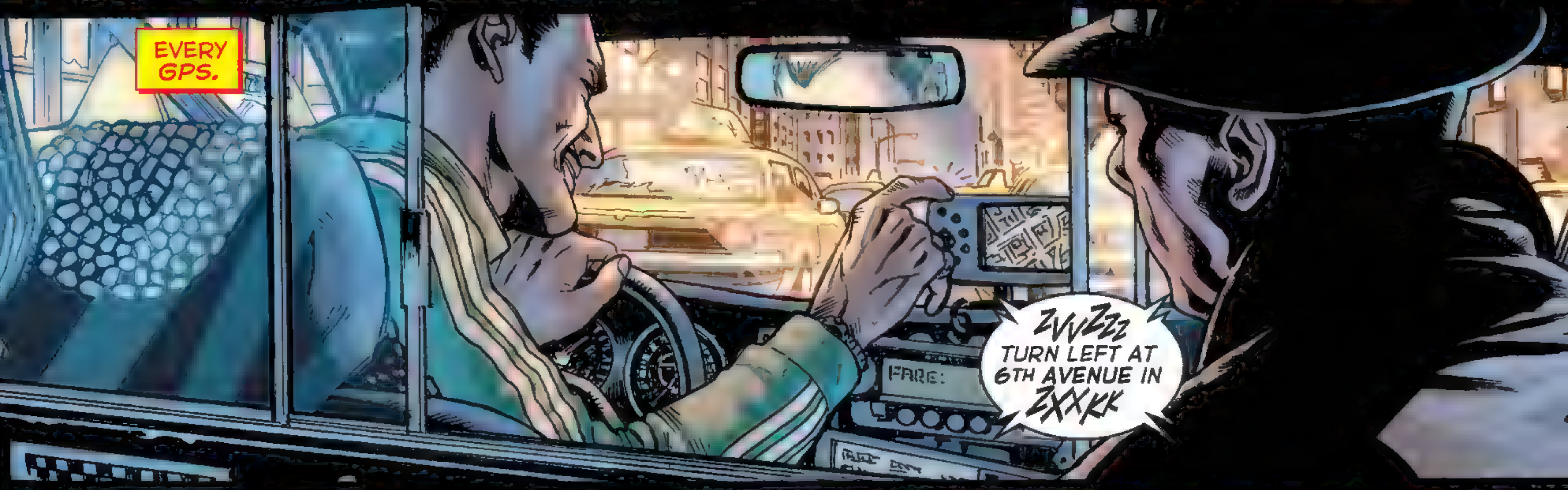


ON EVERY
BROADCAST
MEDIUM.

KZZZZ
ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION =
LONELINESS +
ALIENATION +
FEAR +
DESPAIR



EVERY
CELLPHONE.



EVERY
GPS.

ZVZZZ
TURN LEFT AT
6TH AVENUE IN
ZXXXK



+ SELF-WORTH
+ MOCKERY
+ CONDEMNATION
+ MISUNDER-
STANDING

MORE THAN A
BILLION PEOPLE
CONTAMINATED BY
THE FIRST STRIKE.

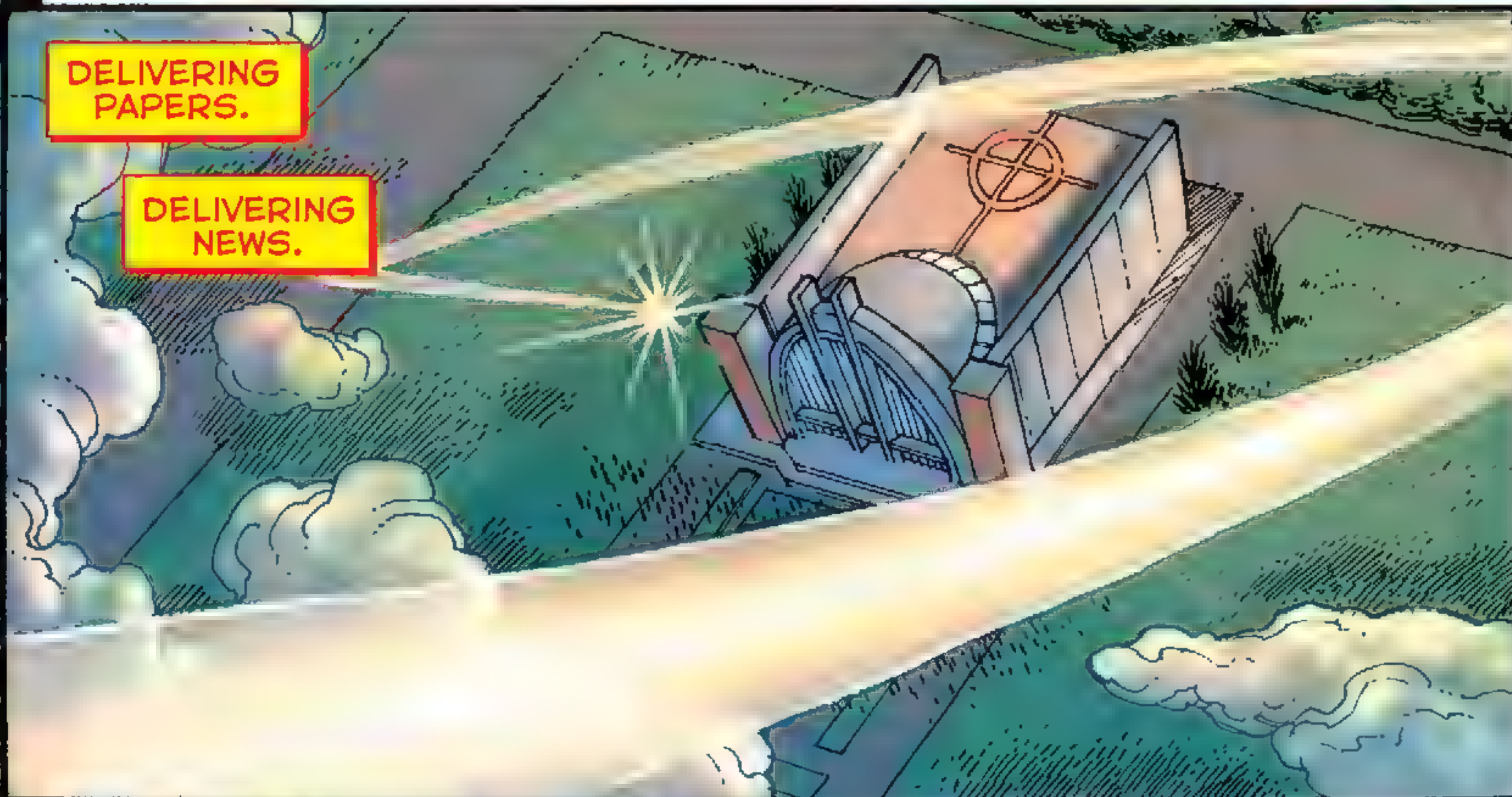


...THEN
THIS.

AS IF IT HAD
ALWAYS BEEN
THIS WAY.



I USED THE
JLA SATELLITE
AS A MIRROR
ON THE WAY IN.



DELIVERING
PAPERS.

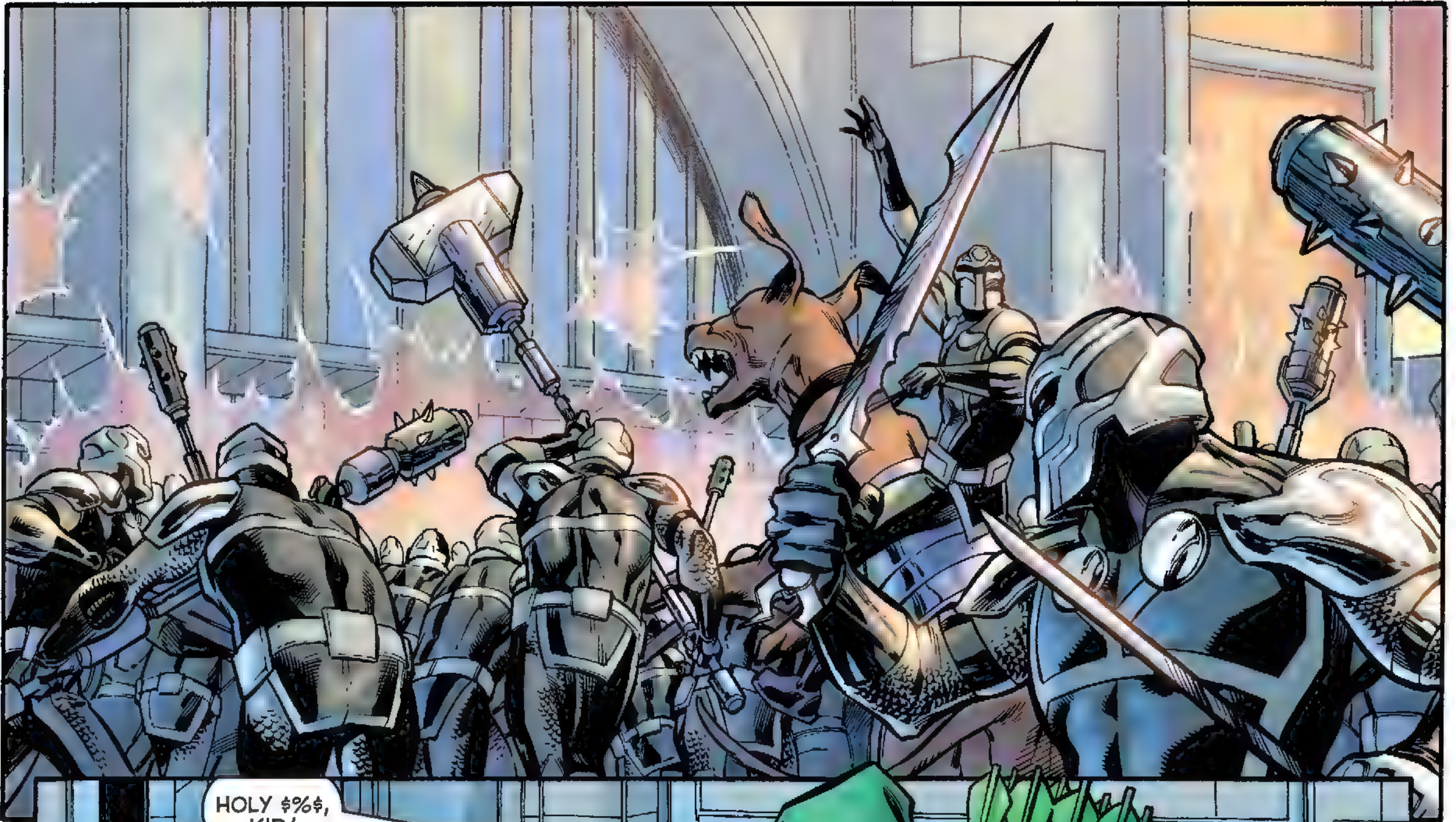
DELIVERING
NEWS.



I WAS MOVING SO
FAST, I'D ALREADY
DRAGGED THE GUY
THROUGH THE SHIELD
BY THE TIME THE
LIGHT REACHED
YOUR EYES.

I CAN BOUNCE
OFF OF
REFLECTIVE
SURFACES.

IT'S HOW I
GET AROUND.



HOLY \$\$\$, KID!

YOU SAID ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS TURN TO A BEAM OF LIGHT TO GET THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD!

EASY FOR ME, BUT THAT GUY'S SOLID.

NO WAY WAS I LEAVING HIM TO THE JUSTIFIERS!

I'M RAY, HI.

YEAH, WELL, YOU JUST RESCUED THE TATTOOED MAN, RAY.

HE'S A TROJAN HORSE FOR THE BAD GUYS!

PROBABLY LED 'EM STRAIGHT TO US!

Unnnh

\$\$\$ YOU, I DID!

I GOTTA NAME, MARK RICHARDS, ALL RIGHT? I'M AN ANTI-LIFE SURVIVOR!

YOU WANT THE WORD FROM BLACK LIGHTNING OR NOT?

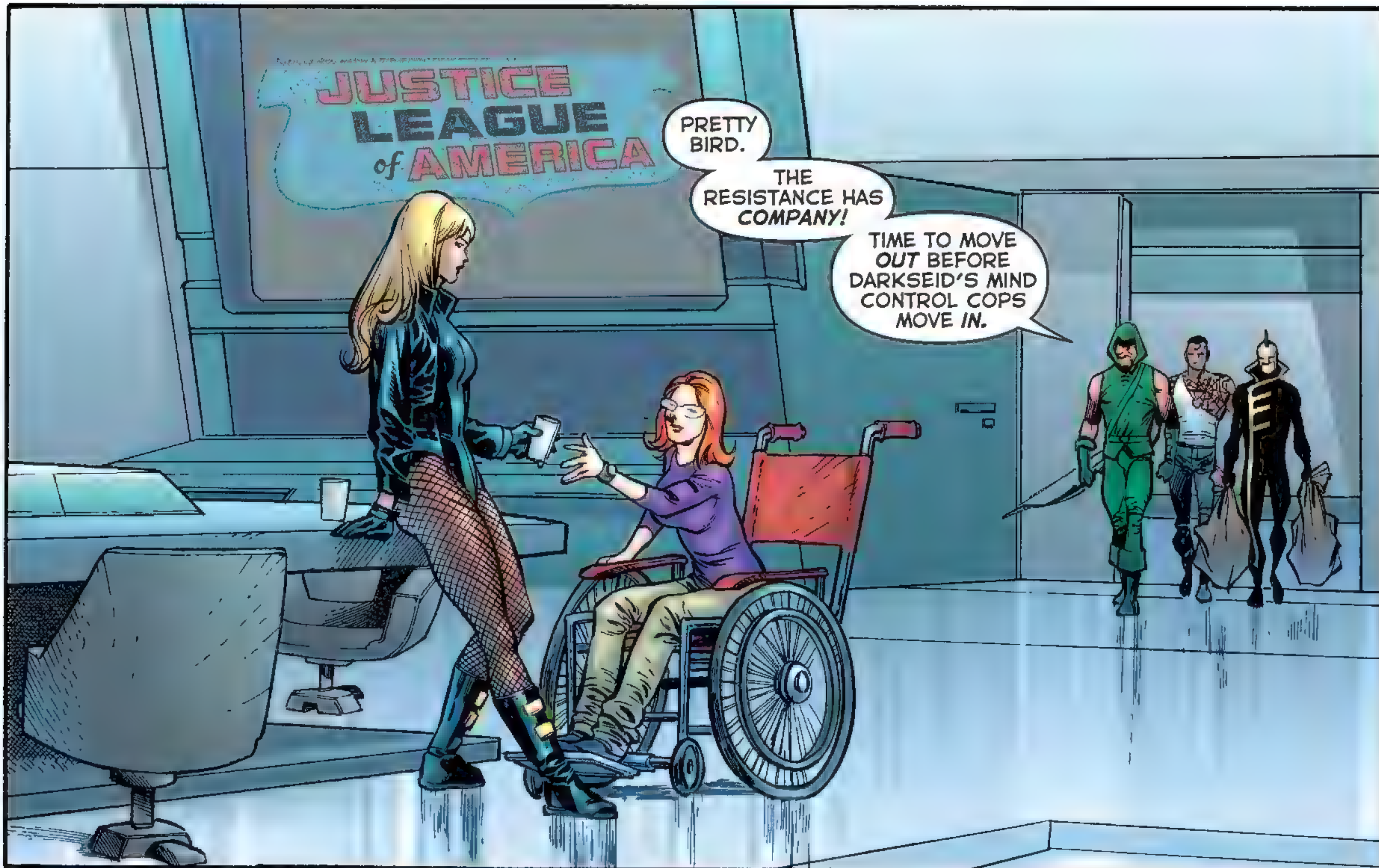
BLACK LIGHTNING?

WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING WITH SECRET SOCIETY CANNON FODDER LIKE YOU?

THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD.

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AND YOU STILL GOTTA ACT LIKE YOU OWN IT!!

SUPER-HEROES!



PRETTY BIRD.

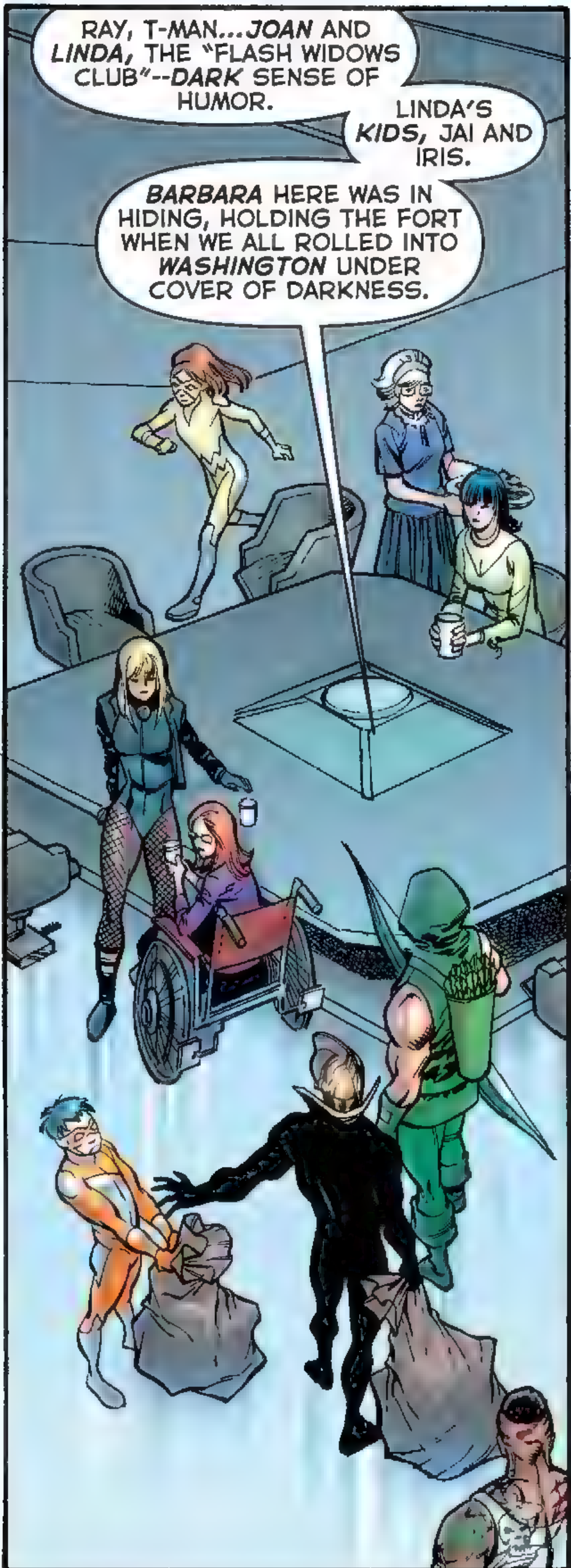
THE RESISTANCE HAS COMPANY!

TIME TO MOVE OUT BEFORE DARKSEID'S MIND CONTROL COPS MOVE IN.

RAY, T-MAN...JOAN AND LINDA, THE "FLASH WIDOWS CLUB"--DARK SENSE OF HUMOR.

LINDA'S KIDS, JAI AND IRIS.

BARBARA HERE WAS IN HIDING, HOLDING THE FORT WHEN WE ALL ROLLED INTO WASHINGTON UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS.



THE RAY!

COOL!

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR DAD?

I HEARD THE ORIGINAL FLASH EVACUATED A WHOLE TOWN, SINGLE-HANDED, IN MINUTES, BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

YOU SEEN THE NEW PLANET EDITION YET?



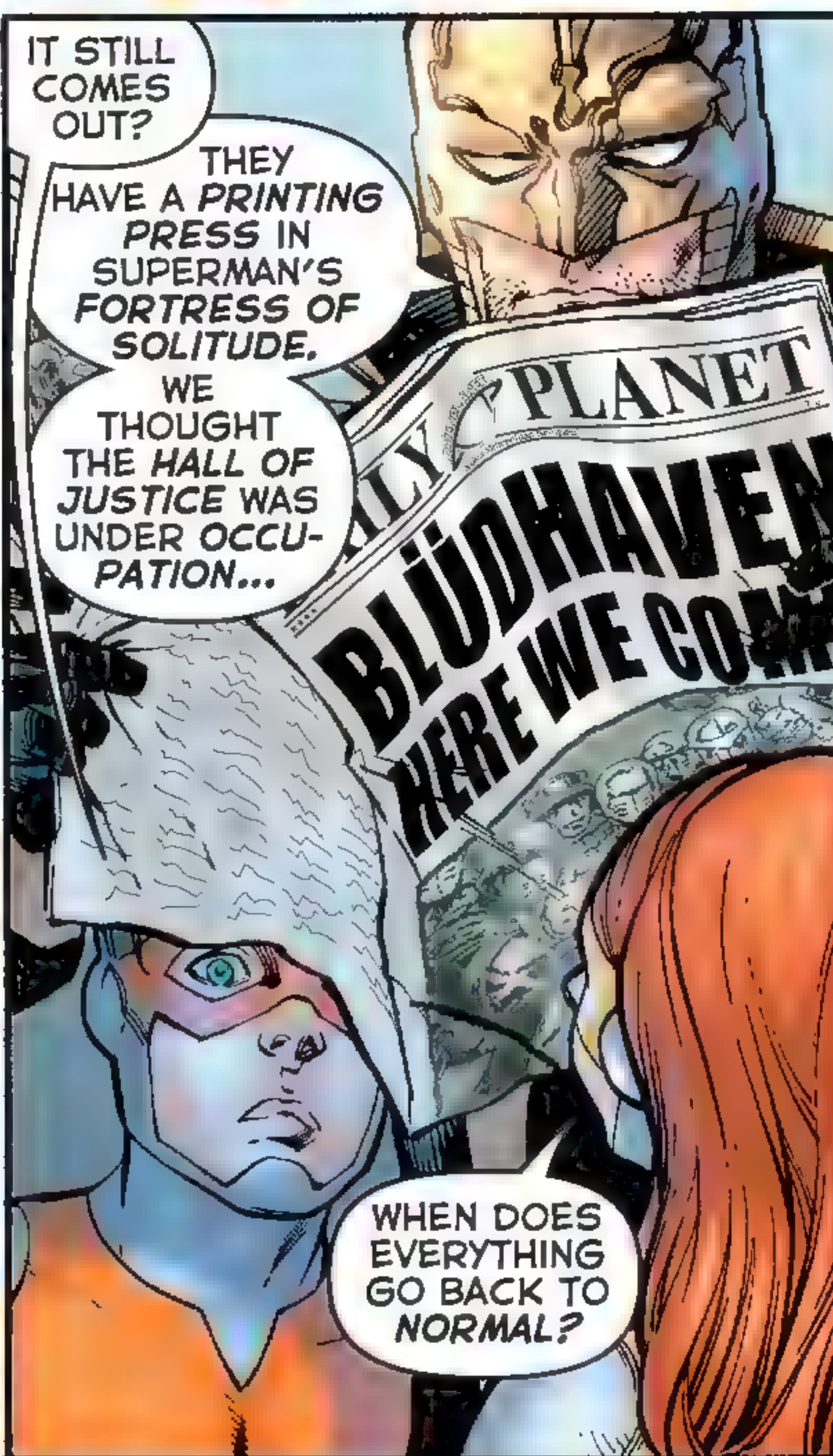
IT STILL COMES OUT?

THEY HAVE A PRINTING PRESS IN SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.

WE THOUGHT THE HALL OF JUSTICE WAS UNDER OCCUPATION...

DAILY PLANET
BLUDHAVEN
HERE WE COME

WHEN DOES EVERYTHING GO BACK TO NORMAL?

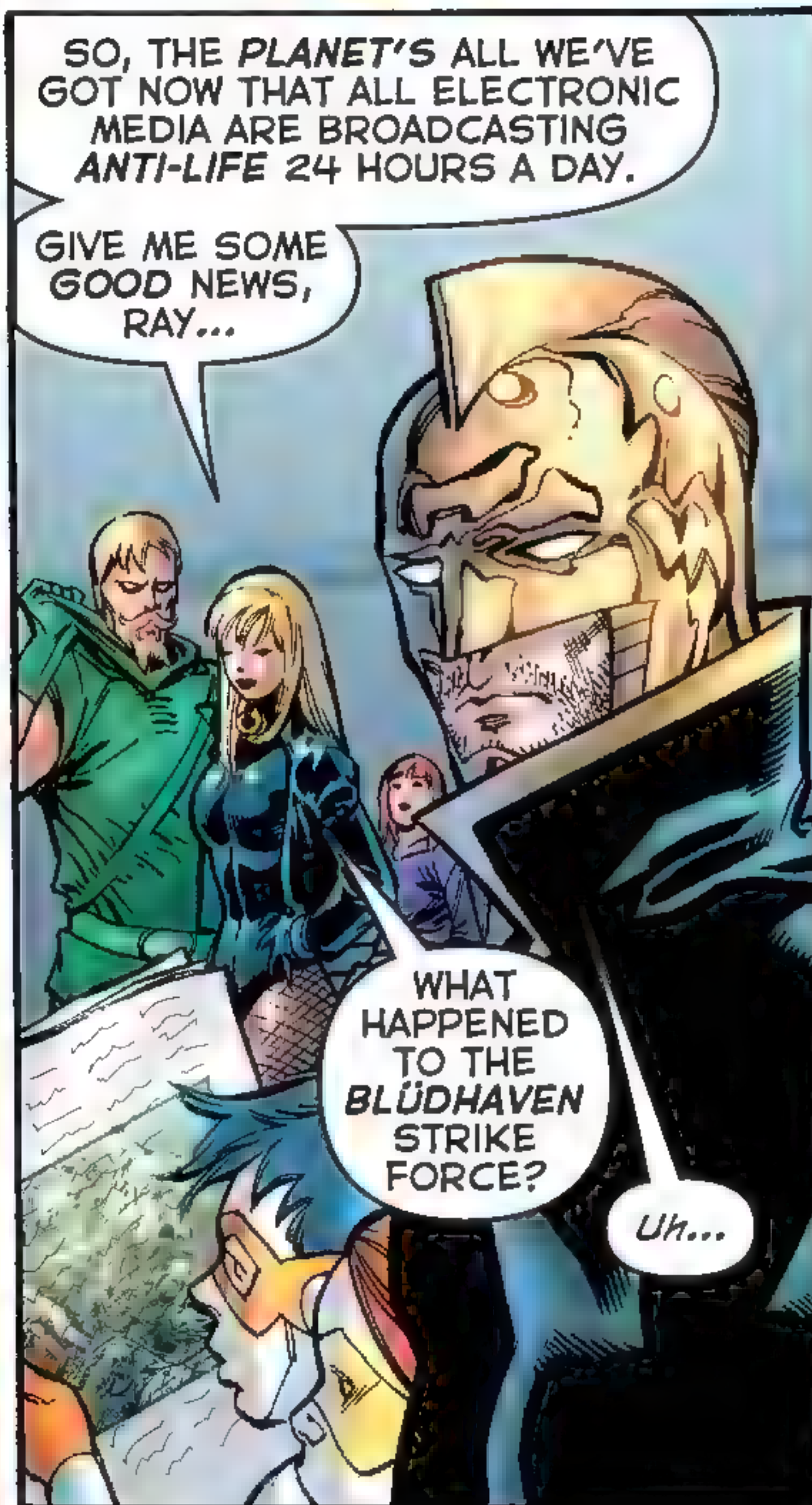


SO, THE PLANET'S ALL WE'VE GOT NOW THAT ALL ELECTRONIC MEDIA ARE BROADCASTING ANTI-LIFE 24 HOURS A DAY.

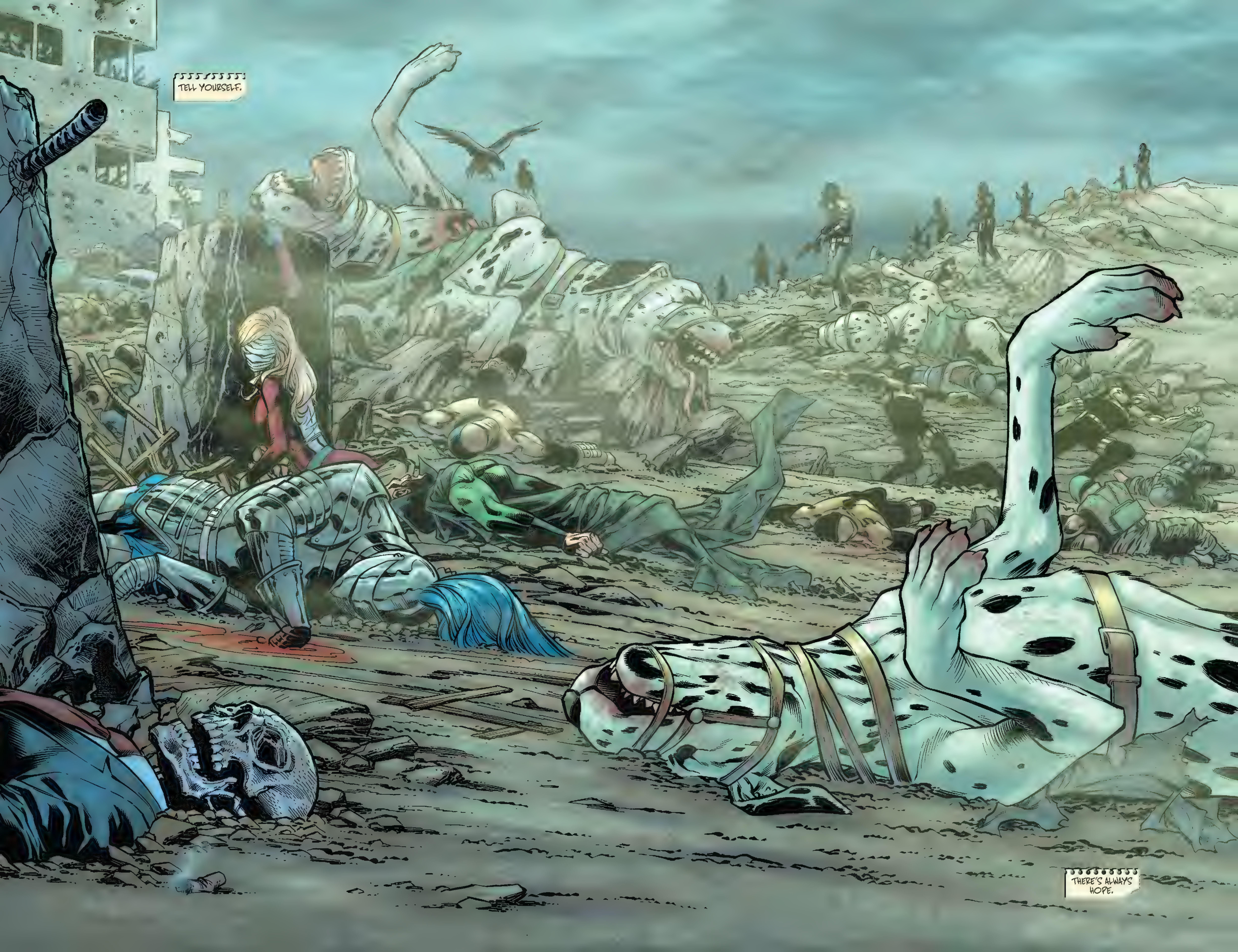
GIVE ME SOME GOOD NEWS, RAY...

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLUDHAVEN STRIKE FORCE?

Uh...



TELL YOURSELF.



THERE'S ALWAYS
HOPE.



NEVER
GIVE UP.

HEAVY...
HURTS.

THE
SUPERHUMANS
HUDDLE IN THEIR
HOLES, AFRAID
TO FACE US.

YET THIS
"ORDINARY"
MAGGOT OF A MAN
BATTLES ON ALONE
AGAINST ANTI-LIFE
INFECTION.

THE
"INCUBATION
PHASE" DEMANDS
THE RUIN OF A
POWERFUL,
NOBLE SPIRIT...



...BUT IF TURPIN
CONTINUES TO
RESIST?

THE BODIES
WE WORE IN THE
4TH WORLD BEFORE
THE FALL WERE
FIT FOR PRIME
CELESTIALS!

BUT THIS...
THIS ROTTING
WHEEZING ENGINE
OF MEAT!

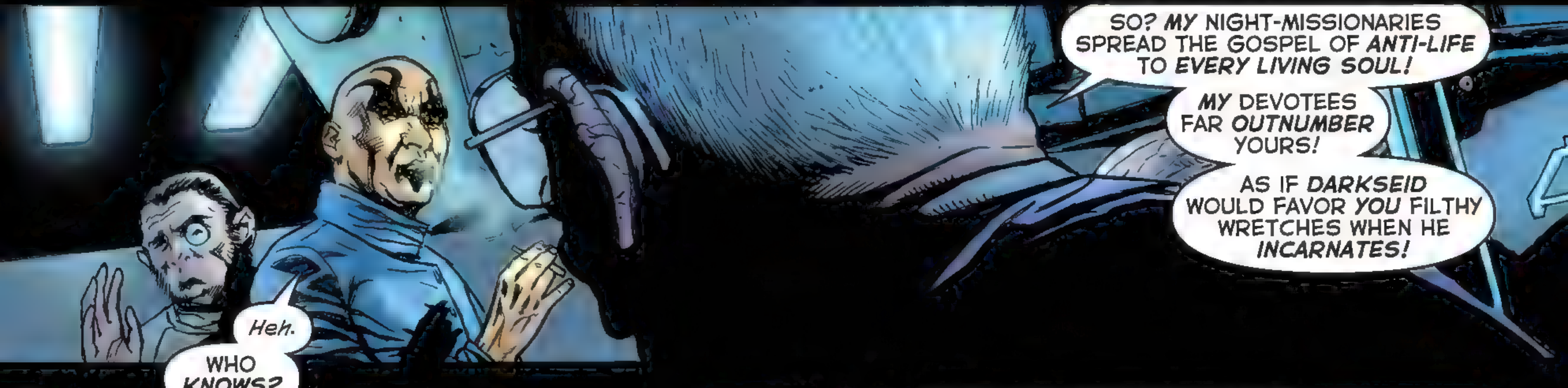


GRAUFF

WELL SAID,
MISTER
SIMYAN.

ZEALOTS OF
THE CULT OF SIMYAN
AND MOKKARI TOIL
WITHOUT REST ON EVIL
FACTORY PRODUCTION
LINES ALL ACROSS
THIS EARTH.

BUILDING
BRAVE NEW
BODIES FOR THE
5TH WORLD!



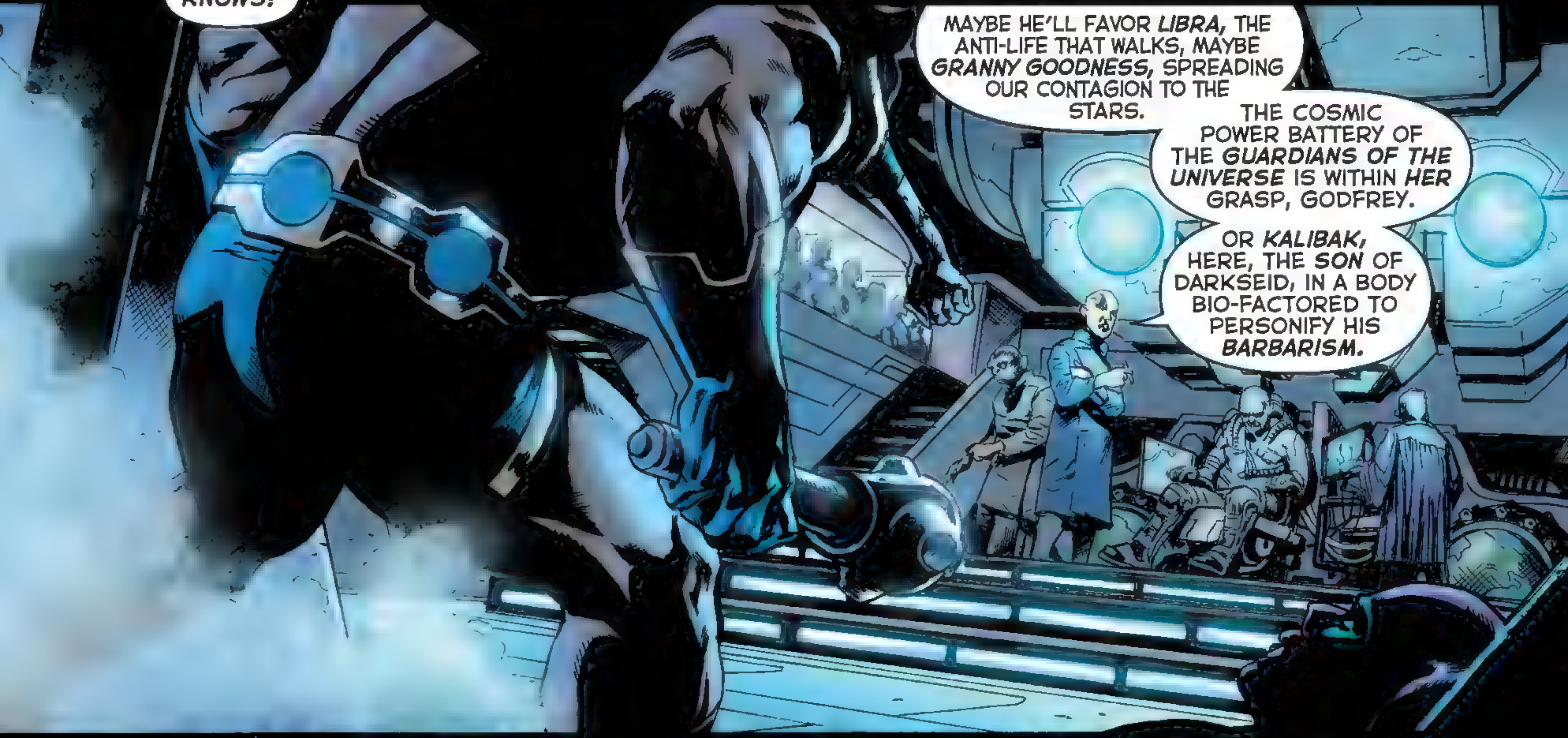
SO? MY NIGHT-MISSIONARIES
SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF ANTI-LIFE
TO EVERY LIVING SOUL!

MY DEVOTEES
FAR OUTNUMBER
YOURS!

AS IF DARKSEID
WOULD FAVOR YOU FILTHY
WRETCHES WHEN HE
INCARNATES!

Heh.

WHO
KNOWS?



MAYBE HE'LL FAVOR LIBRA, THE
ANTI-LIFE THAT WALKS, MAYBE
GRANNY GOODNESS, SPREADING
OUR CONTAGION TO THE
STARS.

THE COSMIC
POWER BATTERY OF
THE GUARDIANS OF THE
UNIVERSE IS WITHIN HER
GRASP, GODFREY.

OR KALIBAK,
HERE, THE SON OF
DARKSEID, IN A BODY
BIO-FACTORED TO
PERSONIFY HIS
BARBARISM.



AAAUURRR

SURE, LIFE
IS HARD.



I FOUGHT MONSTERS,
GANGSTERS, SUPER-CREEPS.

GNNAAU

BUT I NEVER
BACKED DOWN.

I NEVER ASKED
FOR HELP.



RRRAAUURRR

LORD, HELP ME,
NOW, SOMEONE
HELP ME.



LOOK!

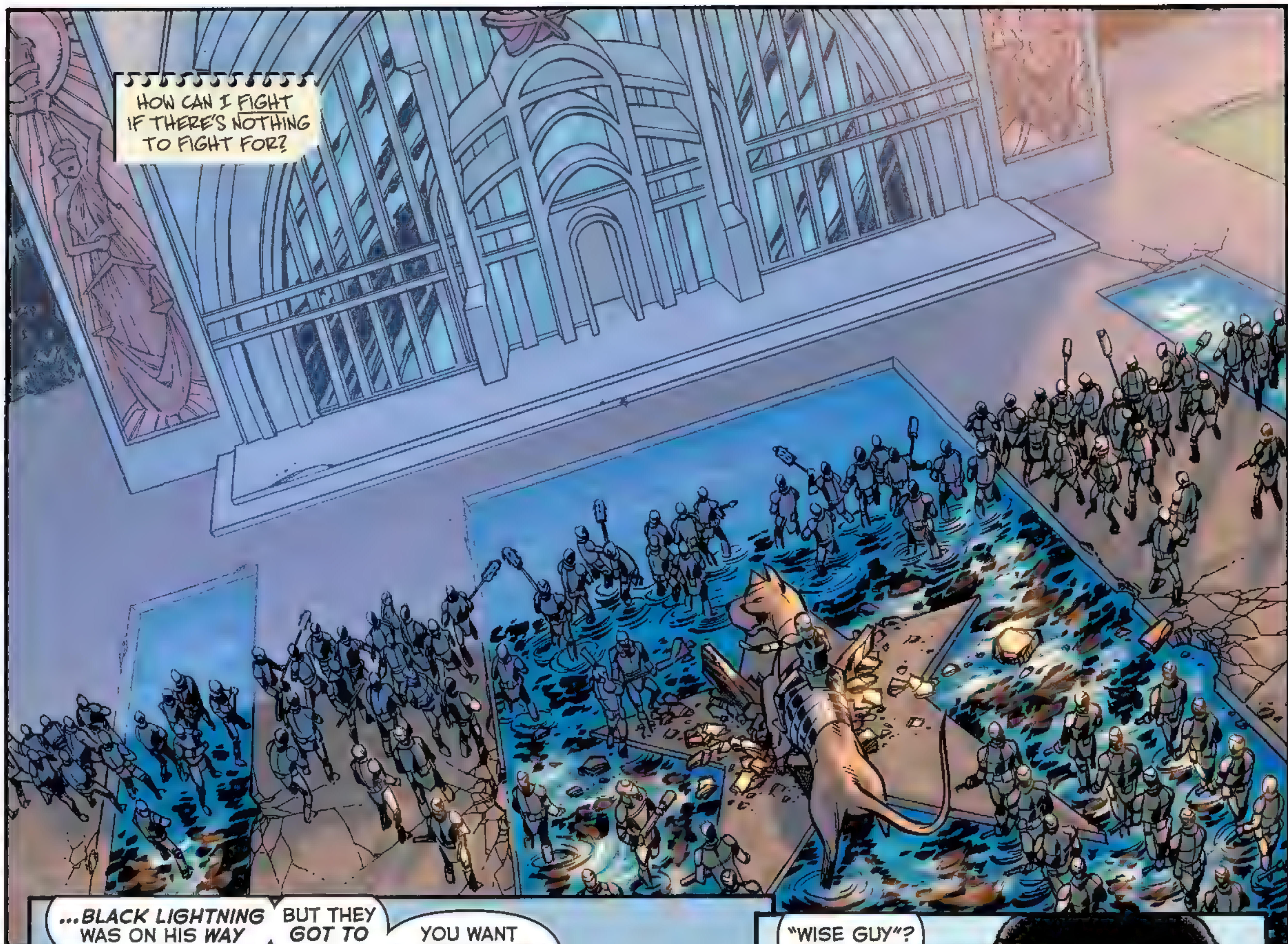
HUMANKIND'S
DESCENT INTO
THE FOREVER PIT
HAS BEGUN!

BRING ON
YOUR GLORIOUS
INCARNATION,
GREAT ONE!

HALLELUJAH!

I CAN'T HOLD
BACK THE STORM
ON MY OWN
ANYMORE.

HOW CAN I FIGHT
IF THERE'S NOTHING
TO FIGHT FOR?



...BLACK LIGHTNING
WAS ON HIS WAY
HERE.

BUT THEY
GOT TO
HIM!

YOU WANT
MORE, YOU CAN
DROP THE COP
ATTITUDE.

"WISE GUY"?
%\$@ YOU!

WE ALL SHOULD
KNOWN BACK THEN, IN
THE DAYS OF THE "DARK
SIDE" CLUB.

THE BOSS AND
HIS BAD DREAMS...
GETTING WEIRD...
UNTIL IT SEEMED LIKE
HE WAS HARDER...
OLDER...

THAT
WAS ONLY THE
BEGINNING.

THEY'VE
WOUNDED
OUR PEOPLE,
OUR MINDS, OUR
PLANET, IN WAYS
WE CAN BARELY
IMAGINE.

WE'RE
DISORIENTED, OUT
OF OUR DEPTH AND
WHATEVER WE THINK
THIS APPEARS TO BE,
IT'S WORSE.

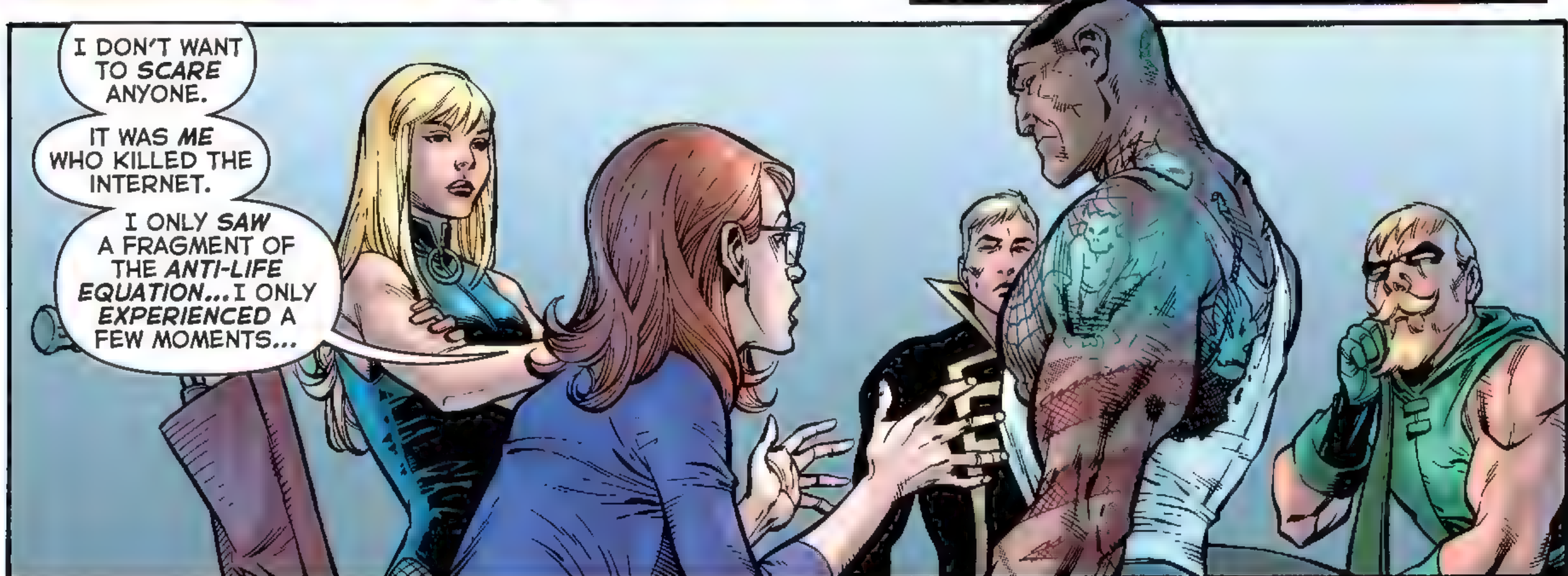
STICK TO
THE STORY,
WISE GUY!

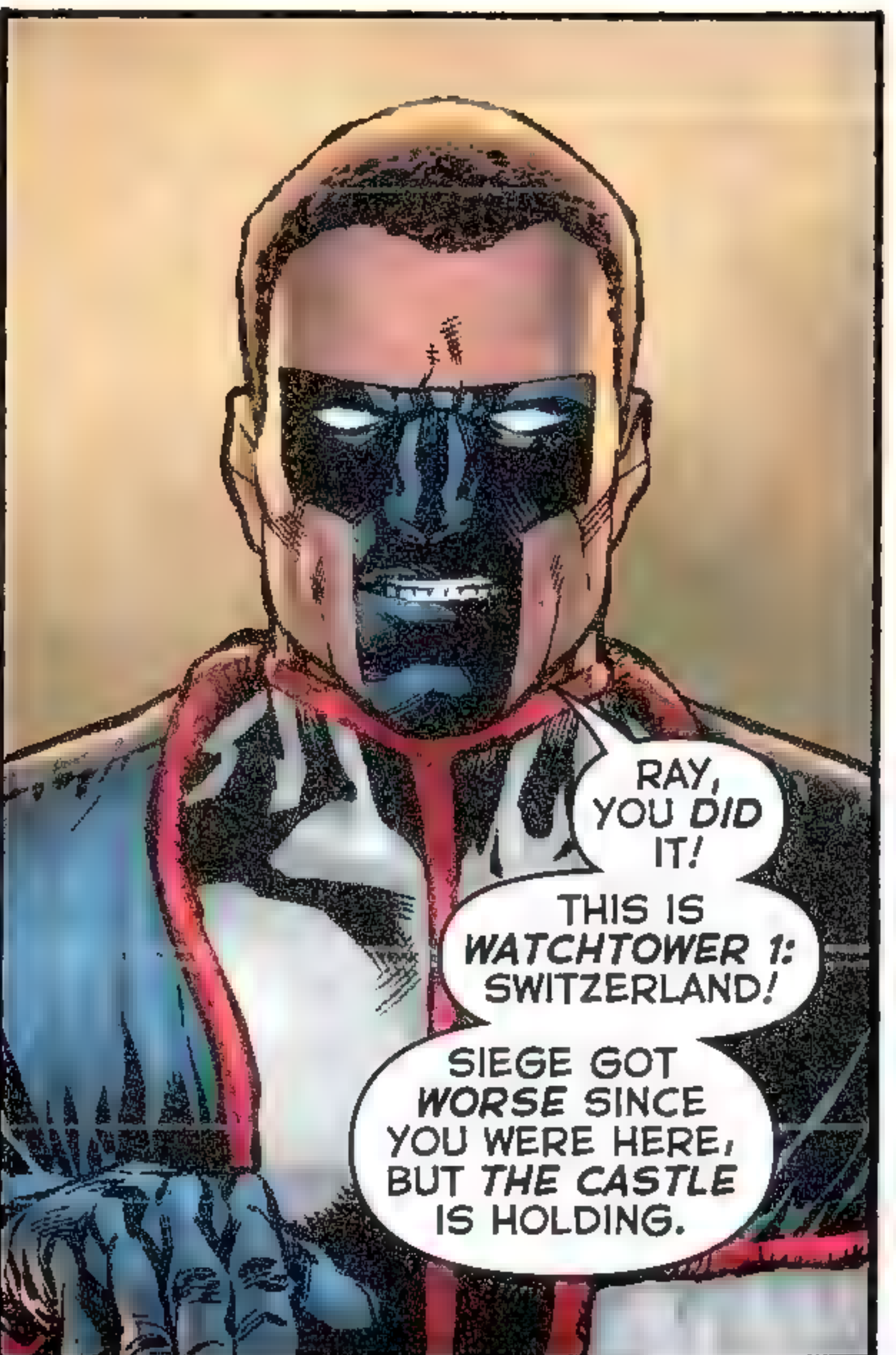
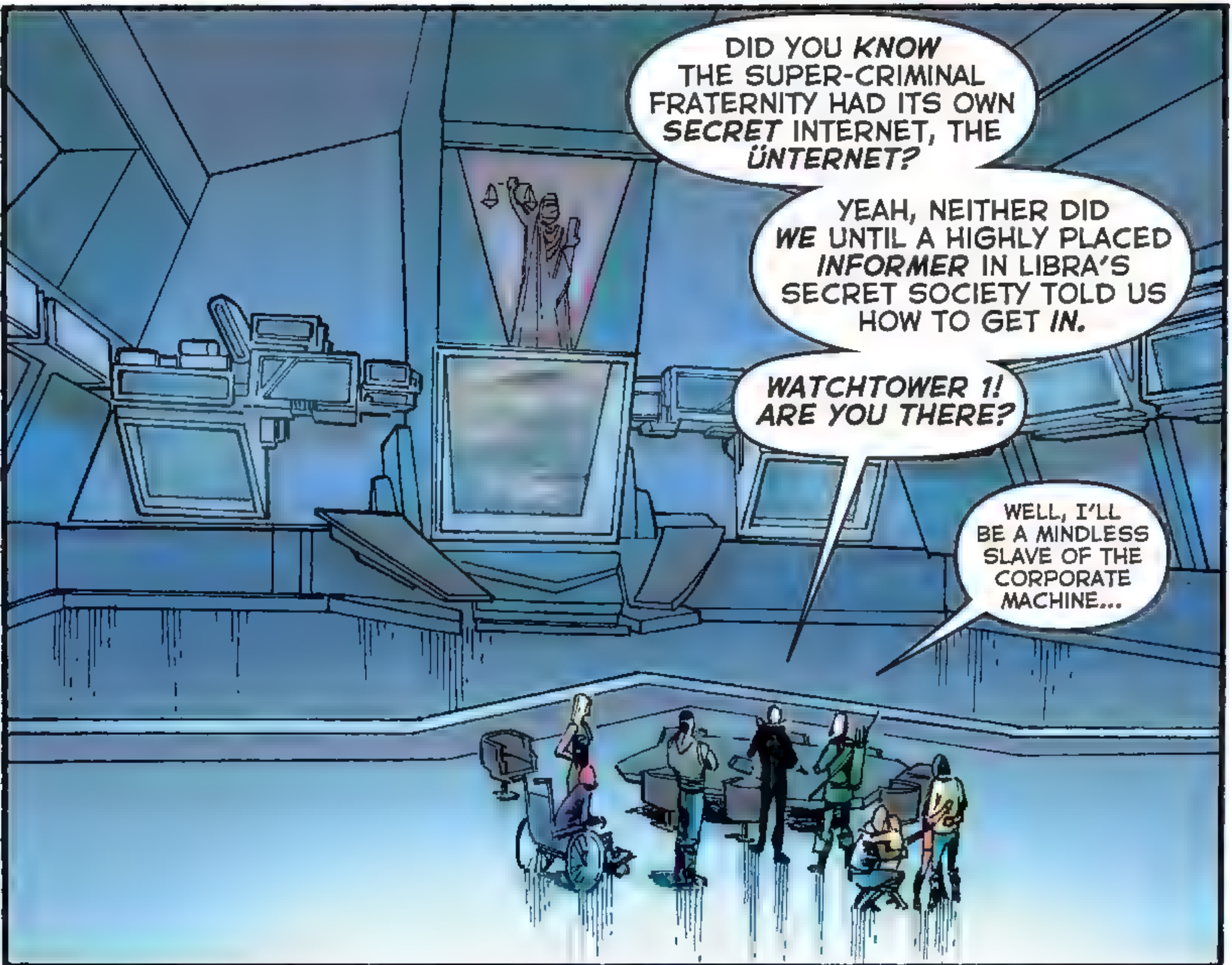
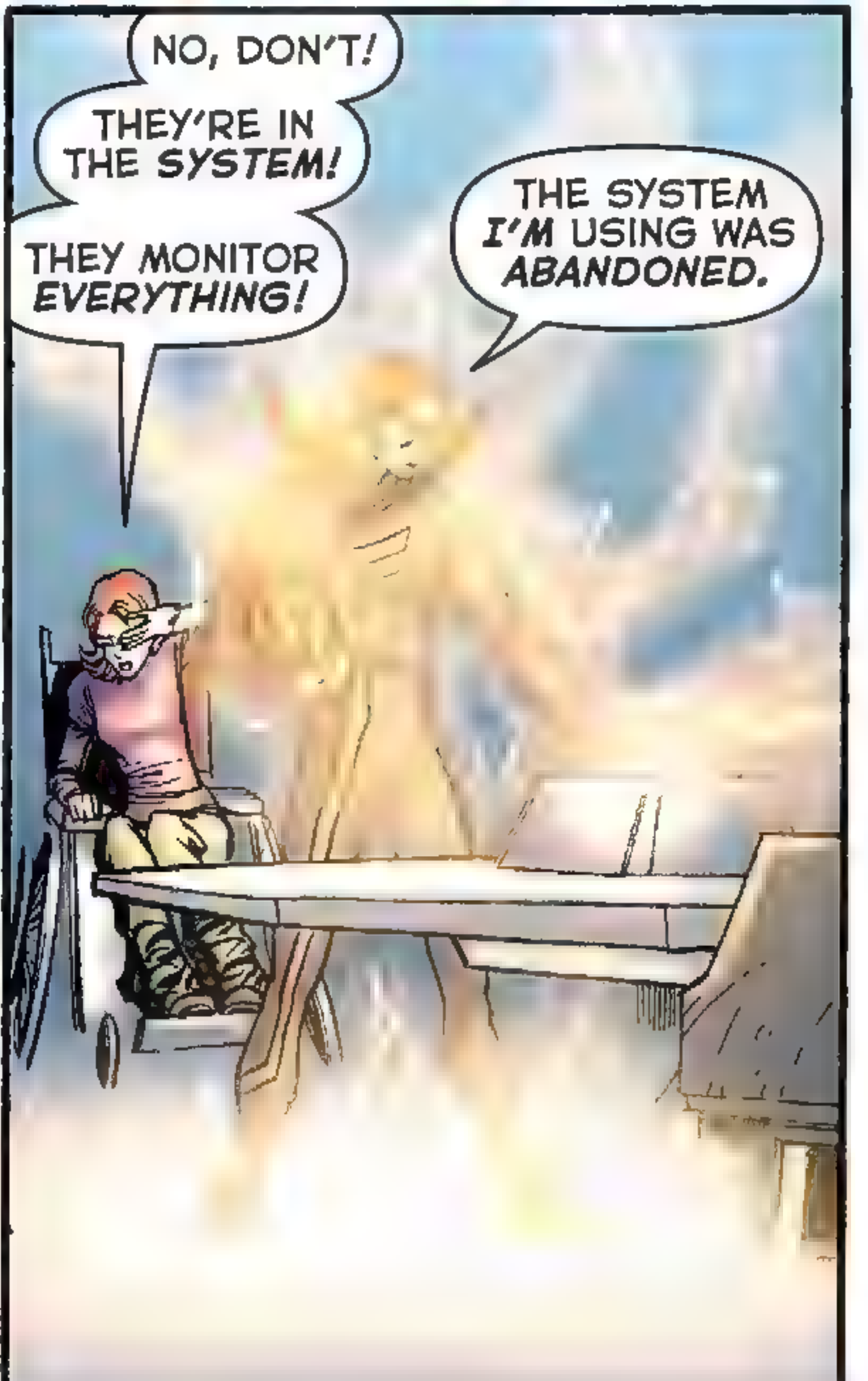
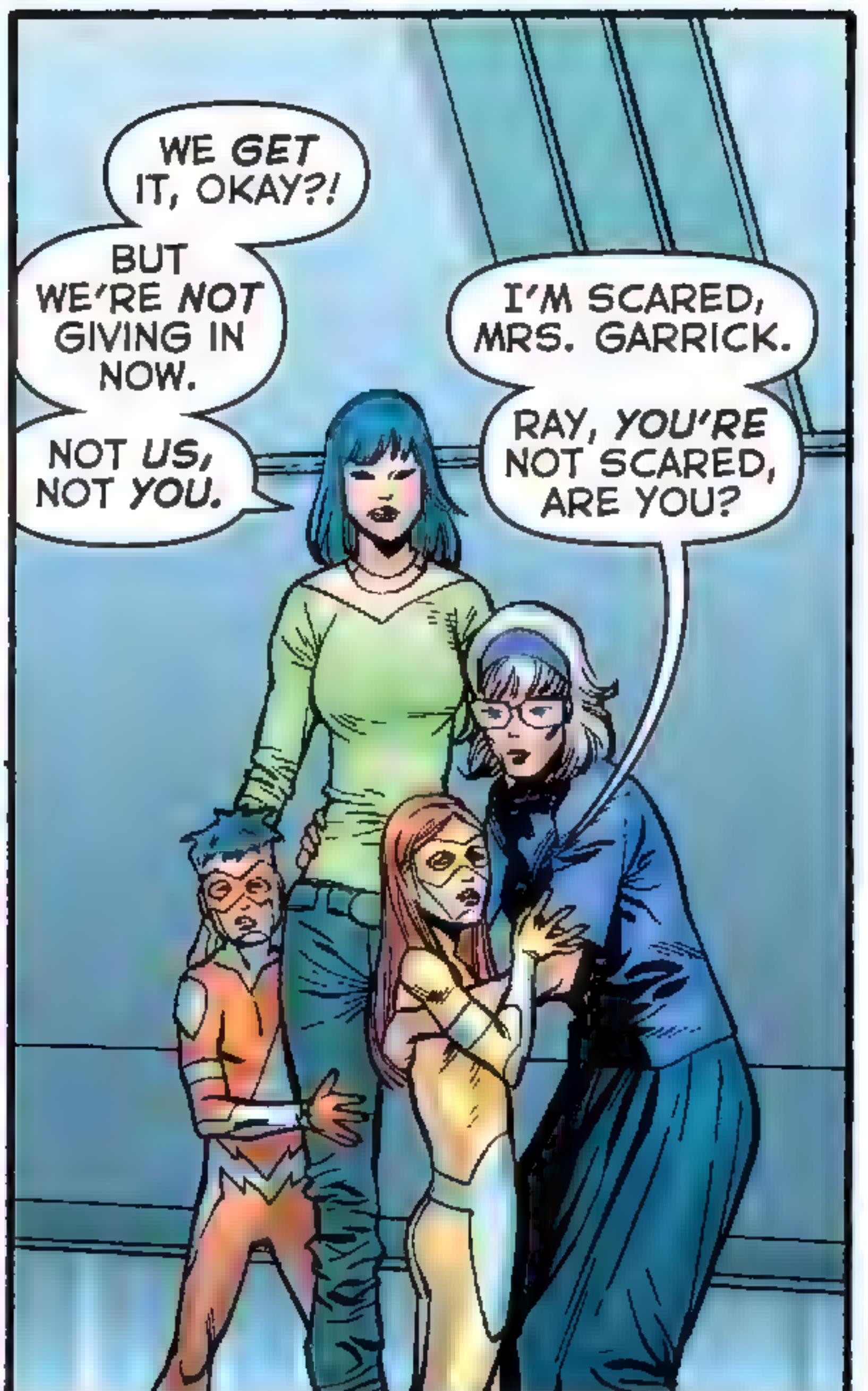


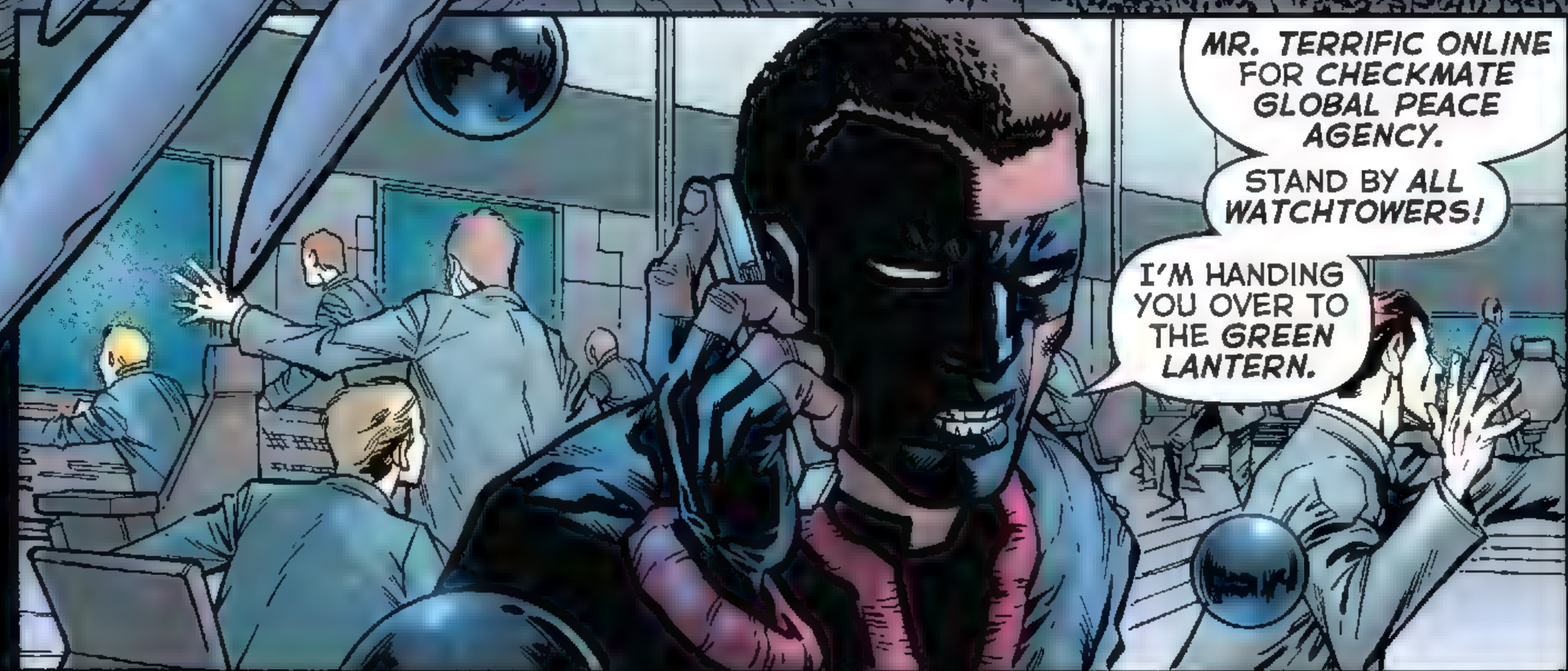
I DON'T WANT
TO SCARE
ANYONE.

IT WAS ME
WHO KILLED THE
INTERNET.

I ONLY SAW
A FRAGMENT OF
THE ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION... I ONLY
EXPERIENCED A
FEW MOMENTS...









OUR WORLD HAS BECOME THE TARGET OF GODS, WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES WE'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

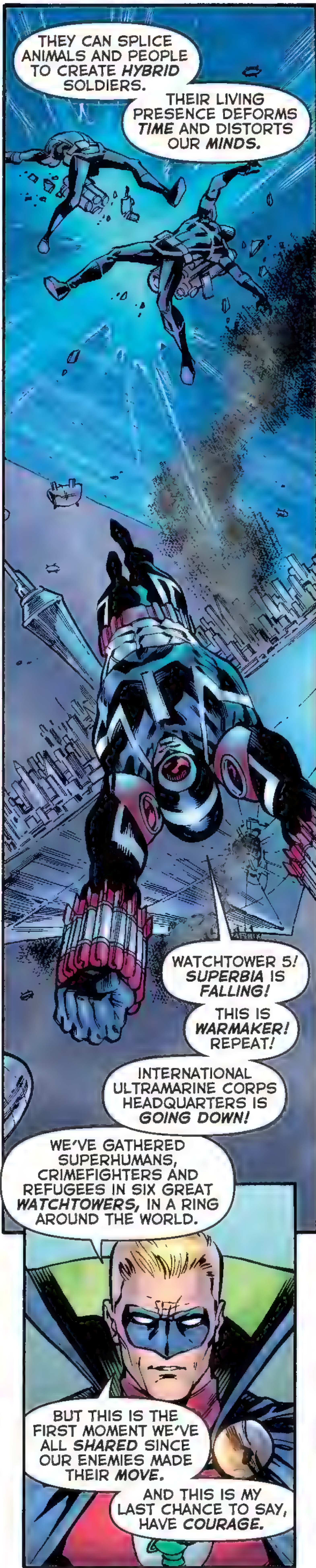
THEY HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERIMENTAL GENETIC TECHNOLOGY IN BLUDHAVEN COMMAND-D FACILITY.

WATCHTOWER 3 ONLINE!

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.

HOLDING.

AWAITING ORDERS.



THEY CAN SPLICE ANIMALS AND PEOPLE TO CREATE *HYBRID* SOLDIERS.

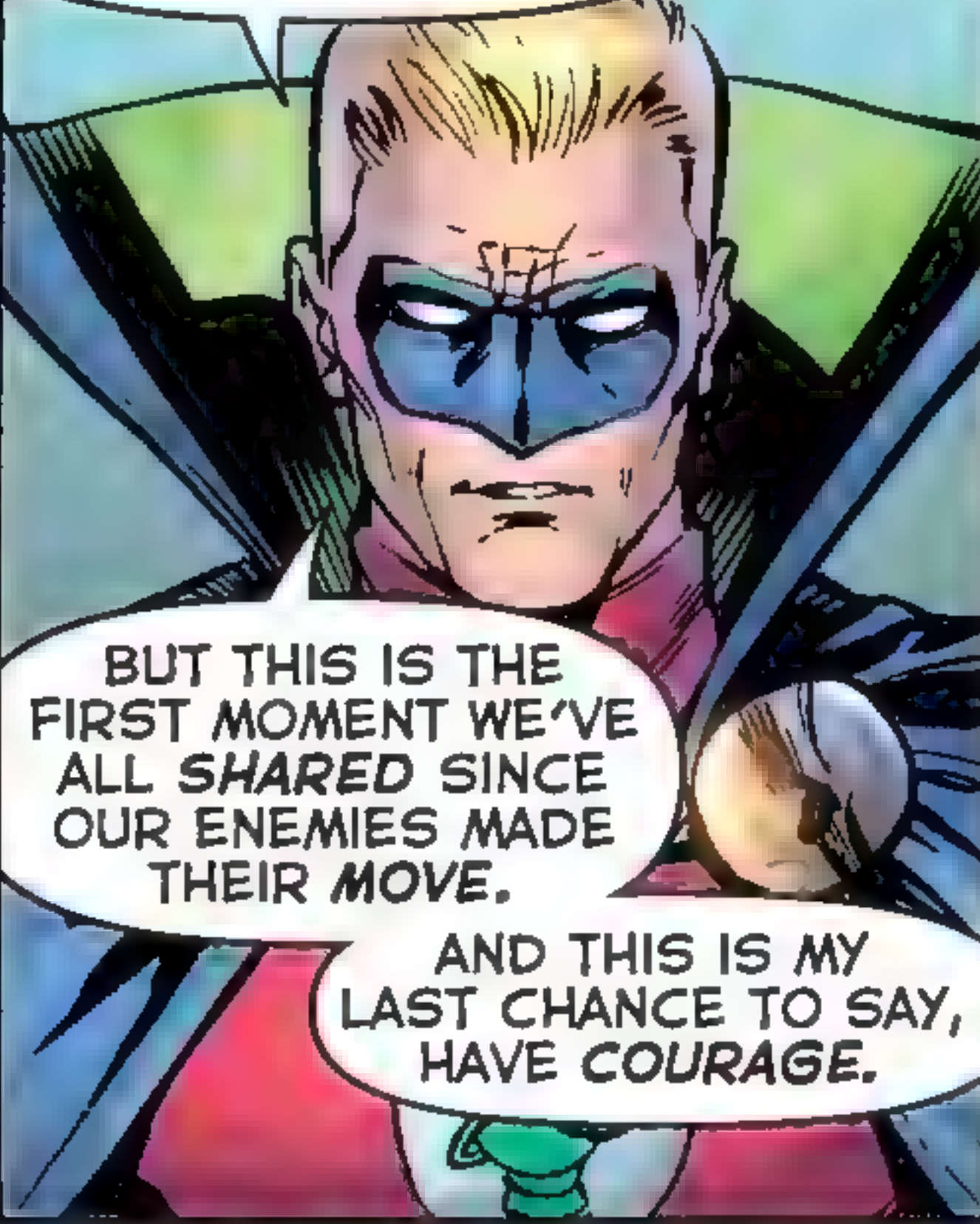
THEIR LIVING PRESENCE DEFORMS TIME AND DISTORTS OUR MINDS.

WATCHTOWER 5! SUPERBIA IS FALLING!

THIS IS WARMAKER! REPEAT!

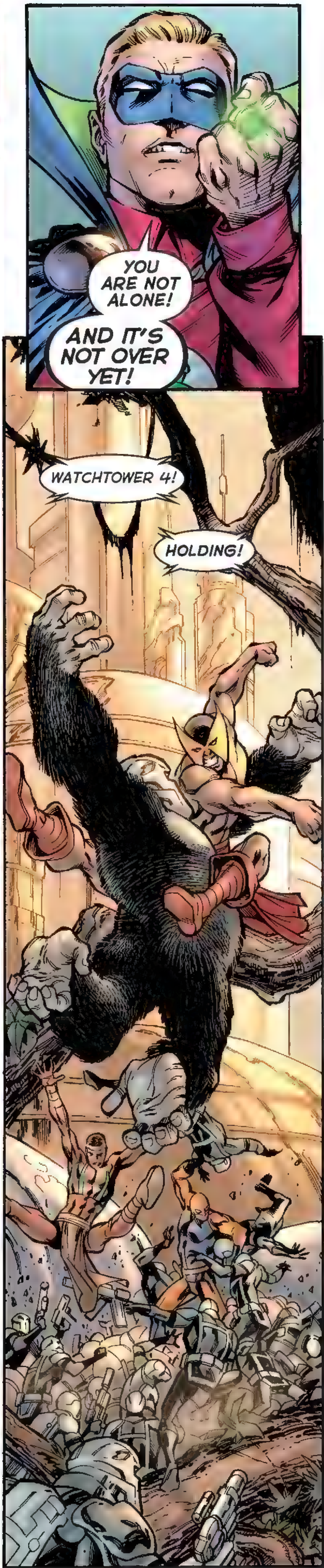
INTERNATIONAL ULTRAMARINE CORPS HEADQUARTERS IS GOING DOWN!

WE'VE GATHERED SUPERHUMANS, CRIMEFIGHTERS AND REFUGEES IN SIX GREAT WATCHTOWERS, IN A RING AROUND THE WORLD.



BUT THIS IS THE FIRST MOMENT WE'VE ALL SHARED SINCE OUR ENEMIES MADE THEIR MOVE.

AND THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO SAY, HAVE COURAGE.

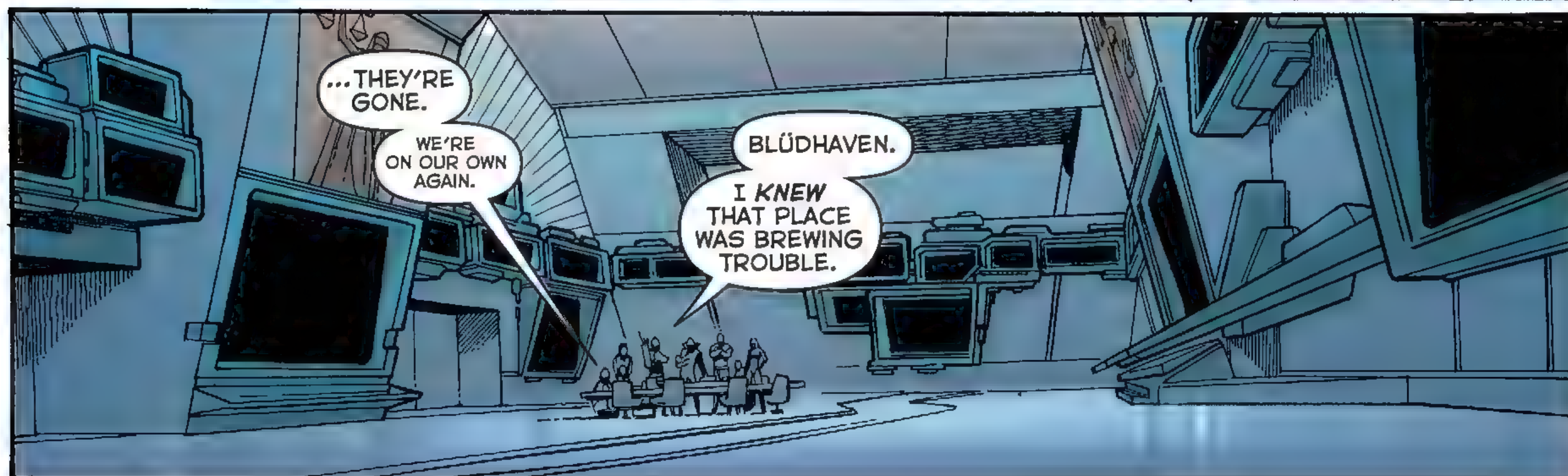


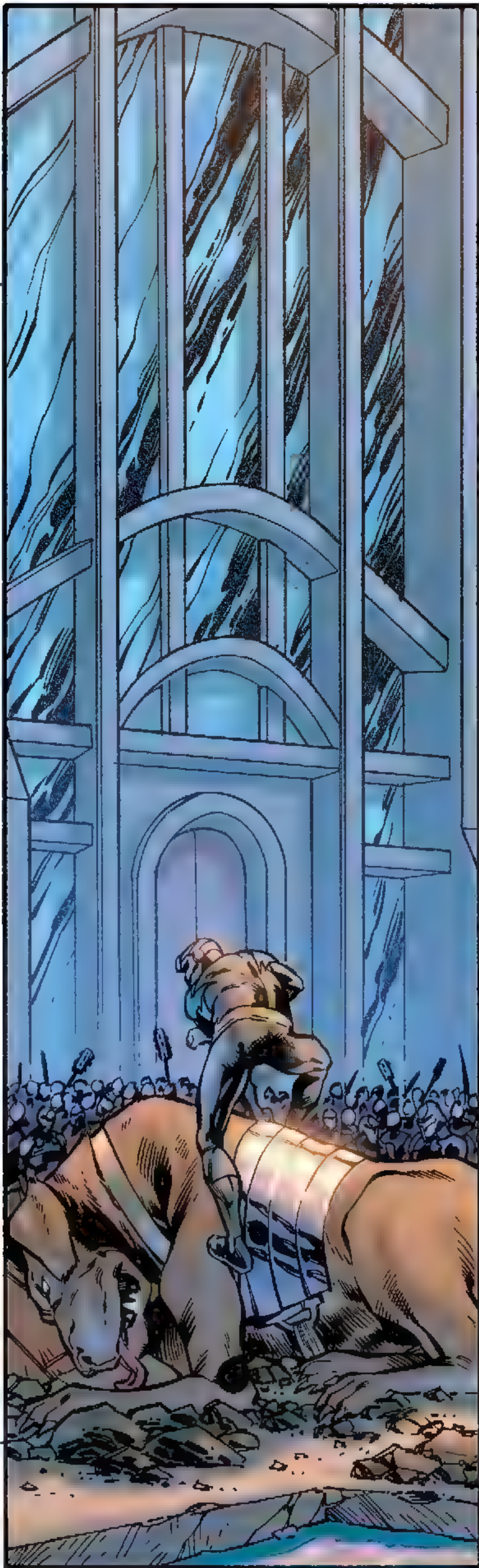
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

AND IT'S NOT OVER YET!

WATCHTOWER 4!

HOLDING!





...BLACK LIGHTNING TOLD ME THIS WAS IMPORTANT, BUT, nah, HE DIDN'T SAY WHY.

SO DON'T ASK ME WHAT IT MEANS.

HE CALLED IT A CIRCUIT.

AND HE SAID I WAS TO KEEP IT SAFE.

THIS MAN PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR MY FAMILY, OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE, UNDERSTAND?

I KEPT IT HIDDEN WHERE THEY'D NEVER FIND IT.

RIGHT HERE ON MY SKIN.



THAT NOISE!

THAT'S THE SHIELD POPPING!

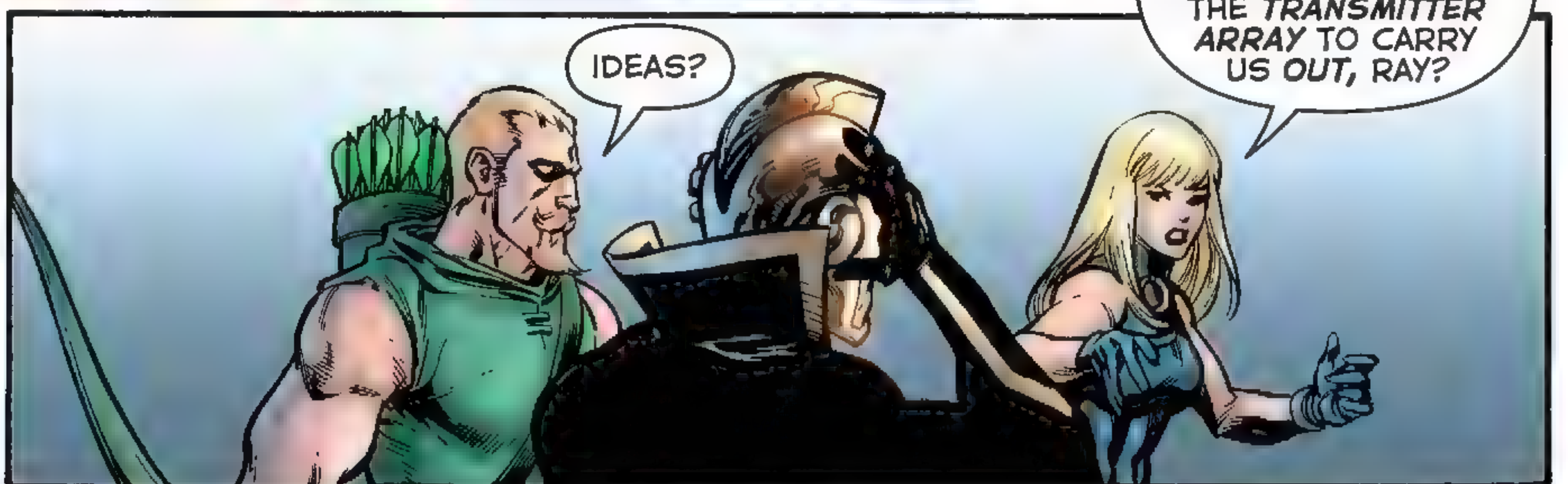
THEY'RE THROUGH!

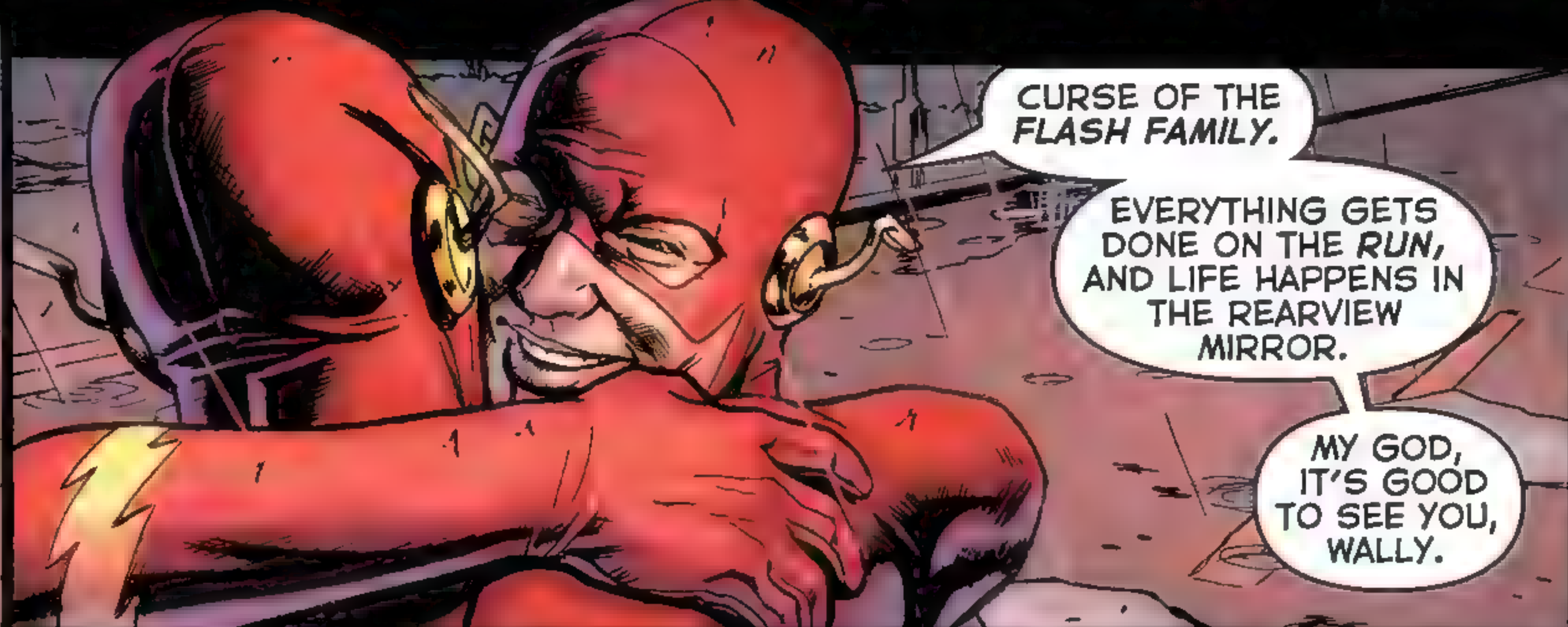
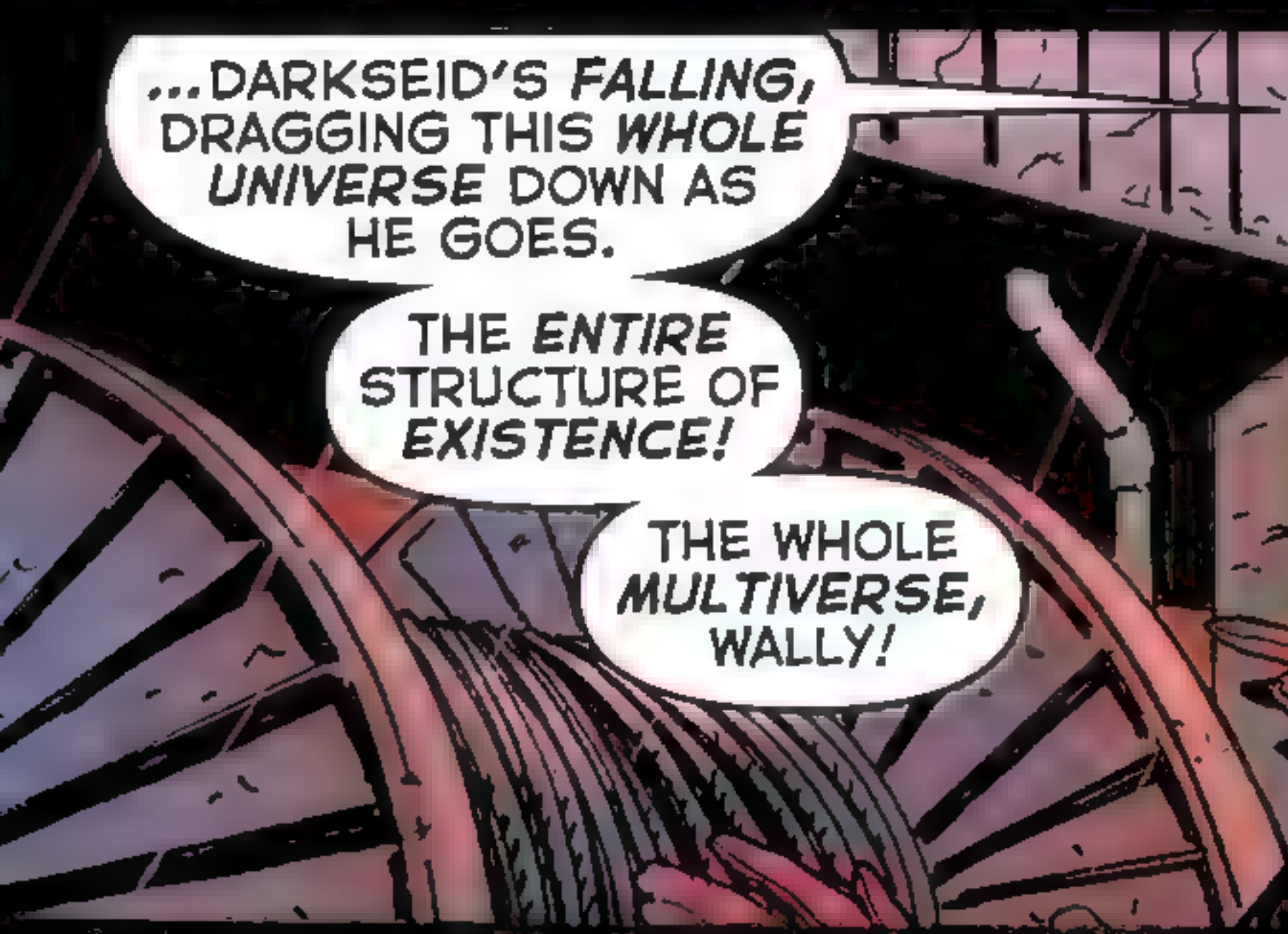
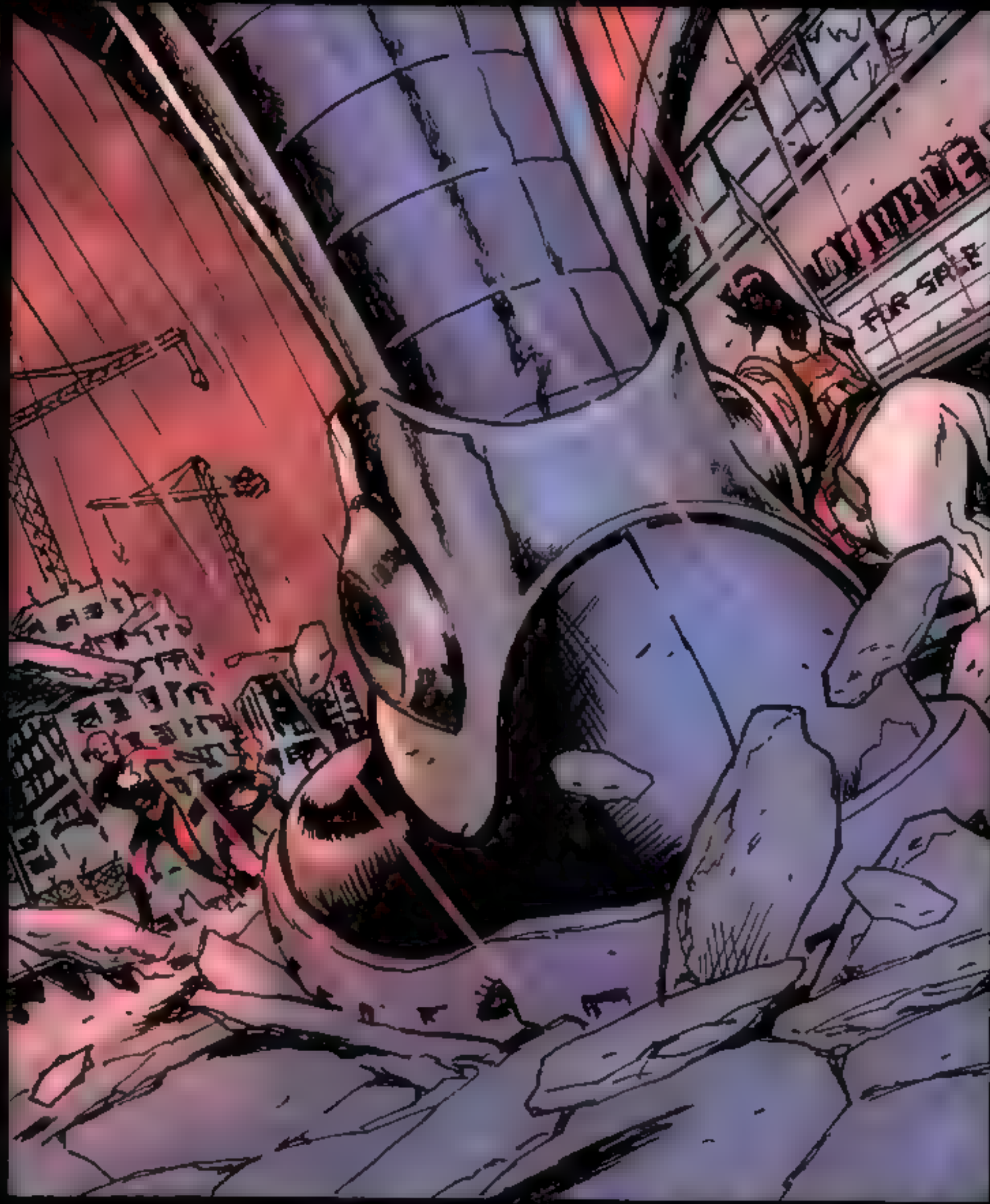
WE HAVE CIVILIANS.

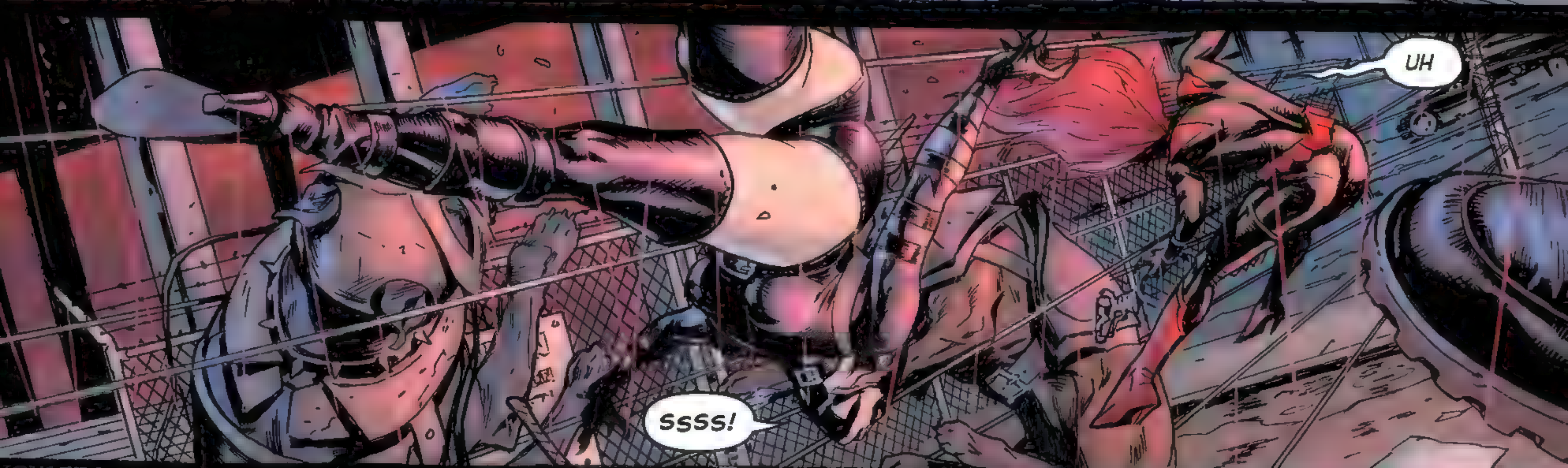
THE HALL OF JUSTICE HAS A TELEPORT SYSTEM.

HOW ABOUT YOU TRANSFORM TO A TELEPORT CARRIER WAVELENGTH AND USE THE TRANSMITTER ARRAY TO CARRY US OUT, RAY?

IDEAS?







BARRY!

SUPER-SPEEDWAVE...

SHH!

EVEN AT THIS SPEED.

SHE CAN SEE US.

AAAAAAH! KUFF!

GO, WALLY!

GO!

RRAAA

DIE!
DIE!
DIE!

...SHE WAS DRESSED LIKE WONDER WOMAN, BARRY.

LIKE I SAID--
ENTIRE MULTIVERSE--
AVALANCHING INTO
OBLIVION.

WE
HAVE TO SAVE
EVERYONE.

WE
START WITH
FAMILY.

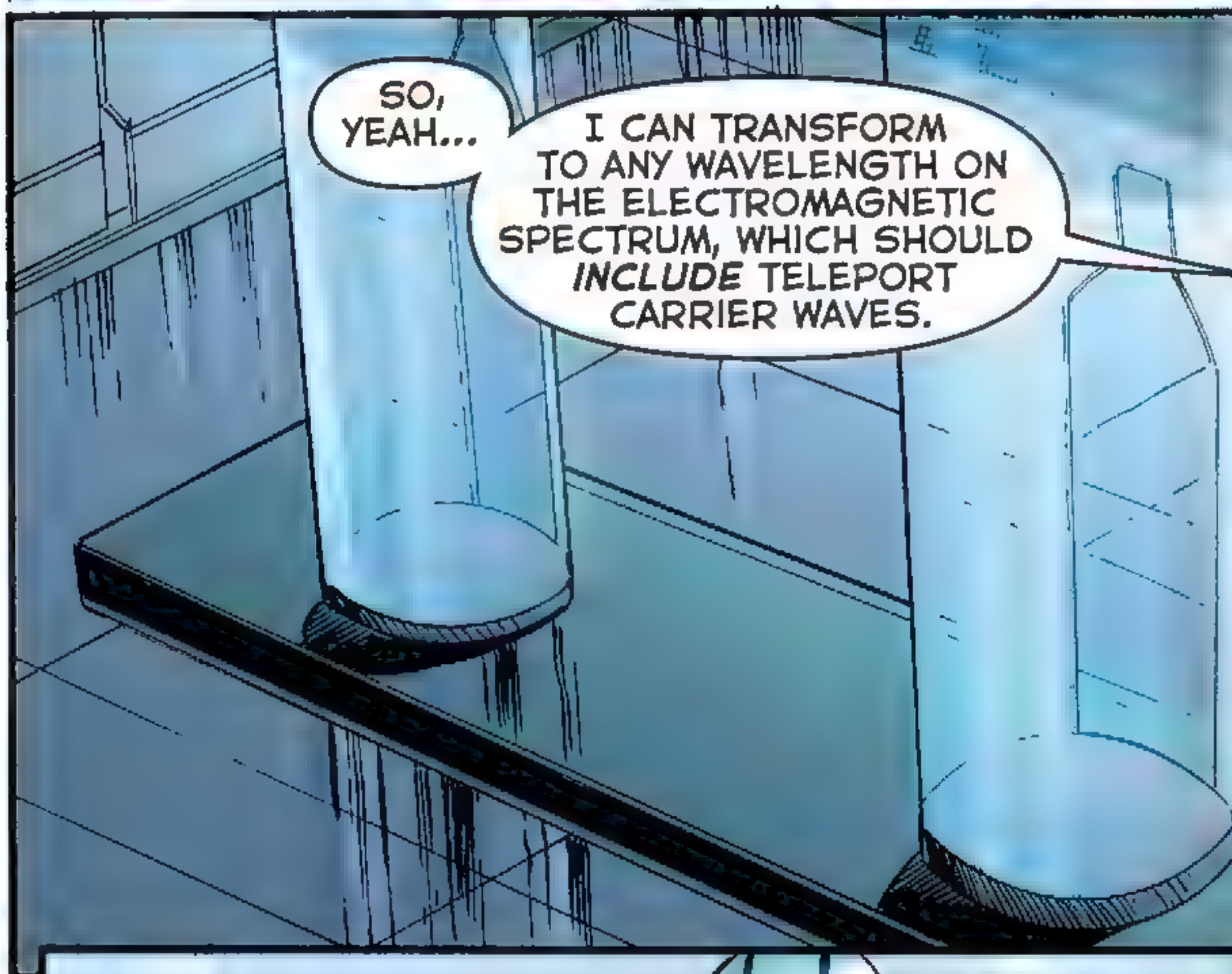


...IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

NO ARGUMENTS!

YOU'RE STAYING WITH ME!

WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TOGETHER FROM STAR CITY!



SO, YEAH...

I CAN TRANSFORM TO ANY WAVELENGTH ON THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE TELEPORT CARRIER WAVES.



YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DO THIS?

JUST LIKE THAT?

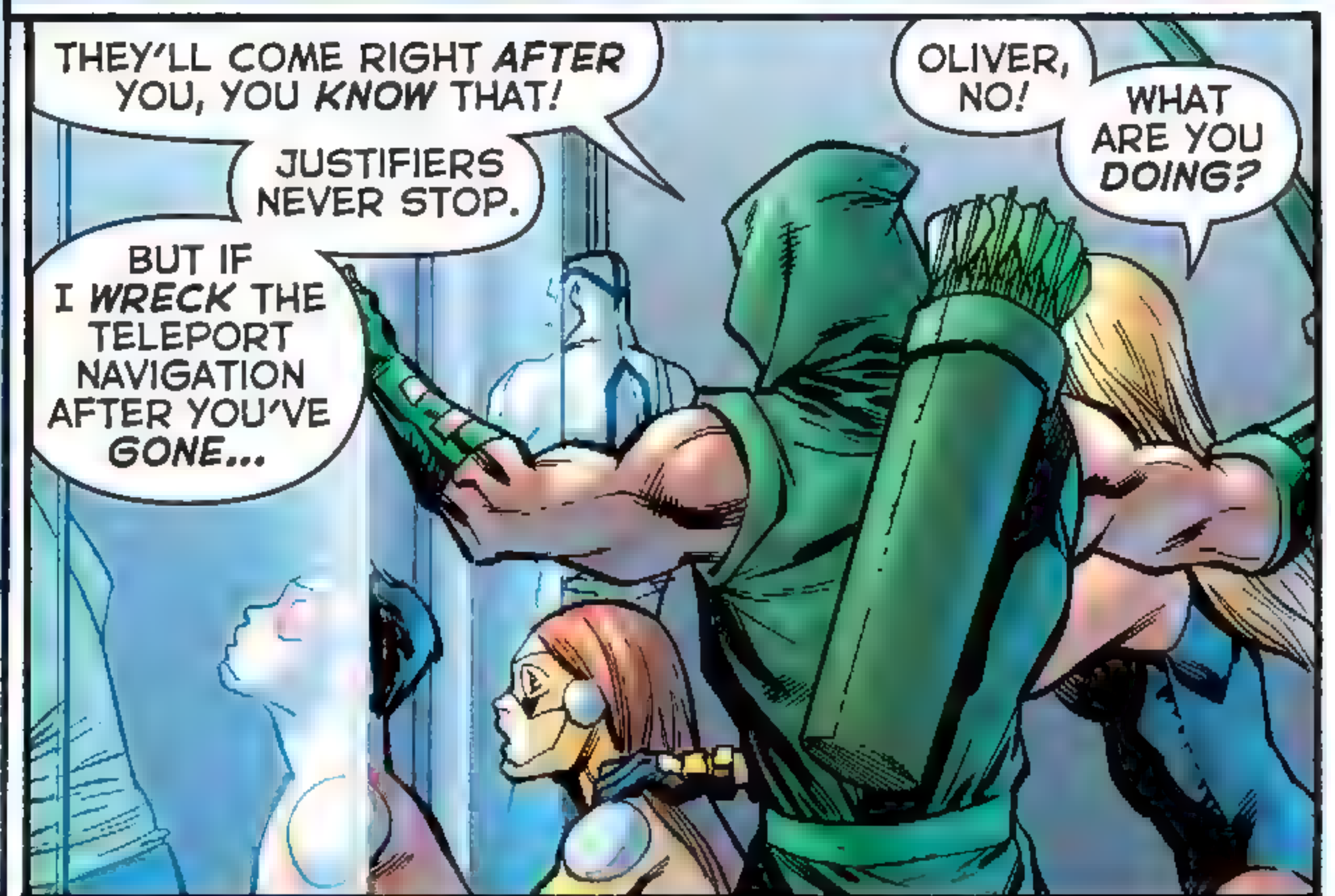
YOU GUYS ARE \$%@#%\$ NUTS!



SERIOUSLY.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SUPER-HERO, LIKE THE REST OF US.

WHAT?



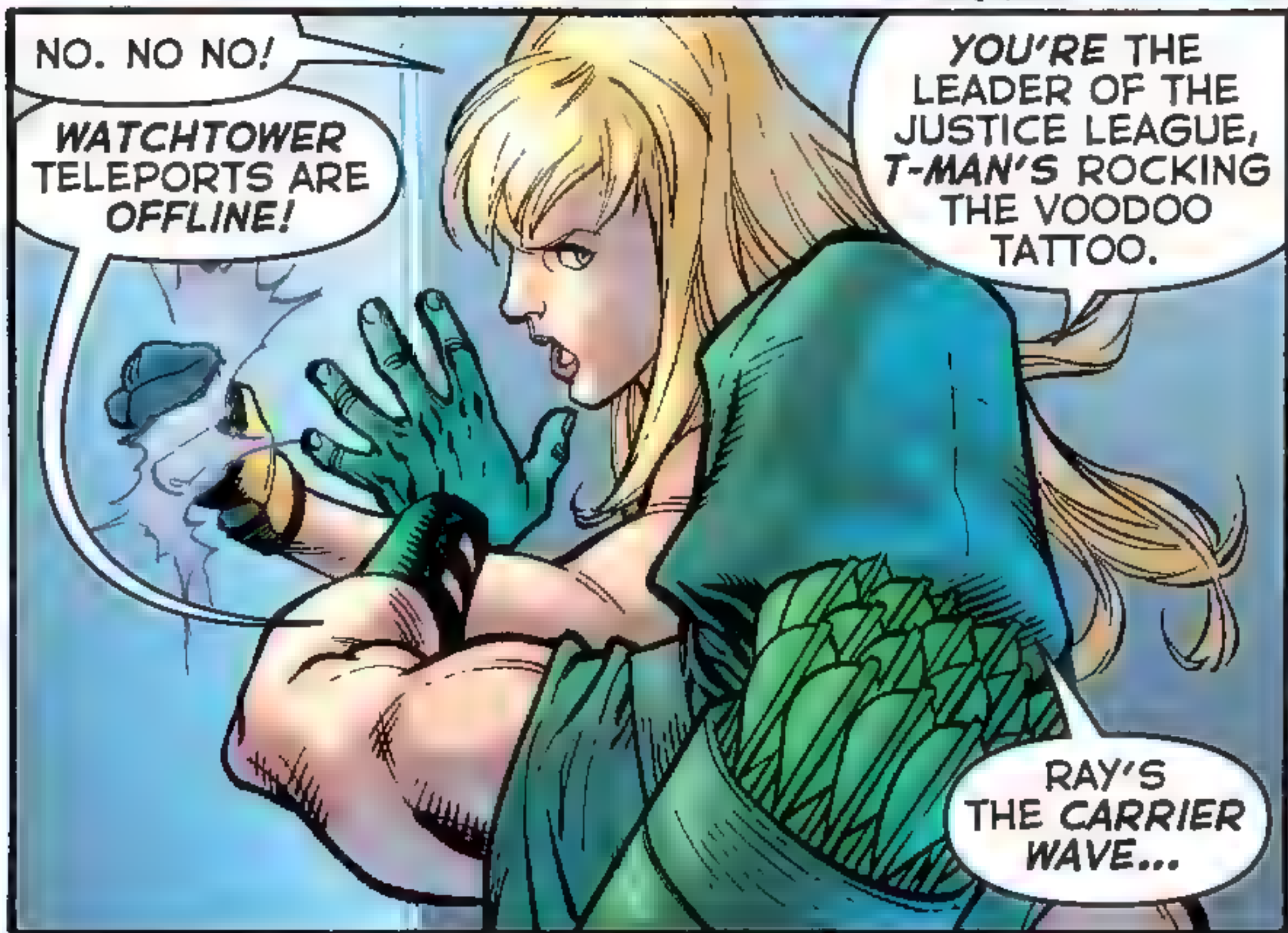
THEY'LL COME RIGHT AFTER YOU, YOU KNOW THAT!

JUSTIFIERS NEVER STOP.

BUT IF I WRECK THE TELEPORT NAVIGATION AFTER YOU'VE GONE...

OLIVER, NO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

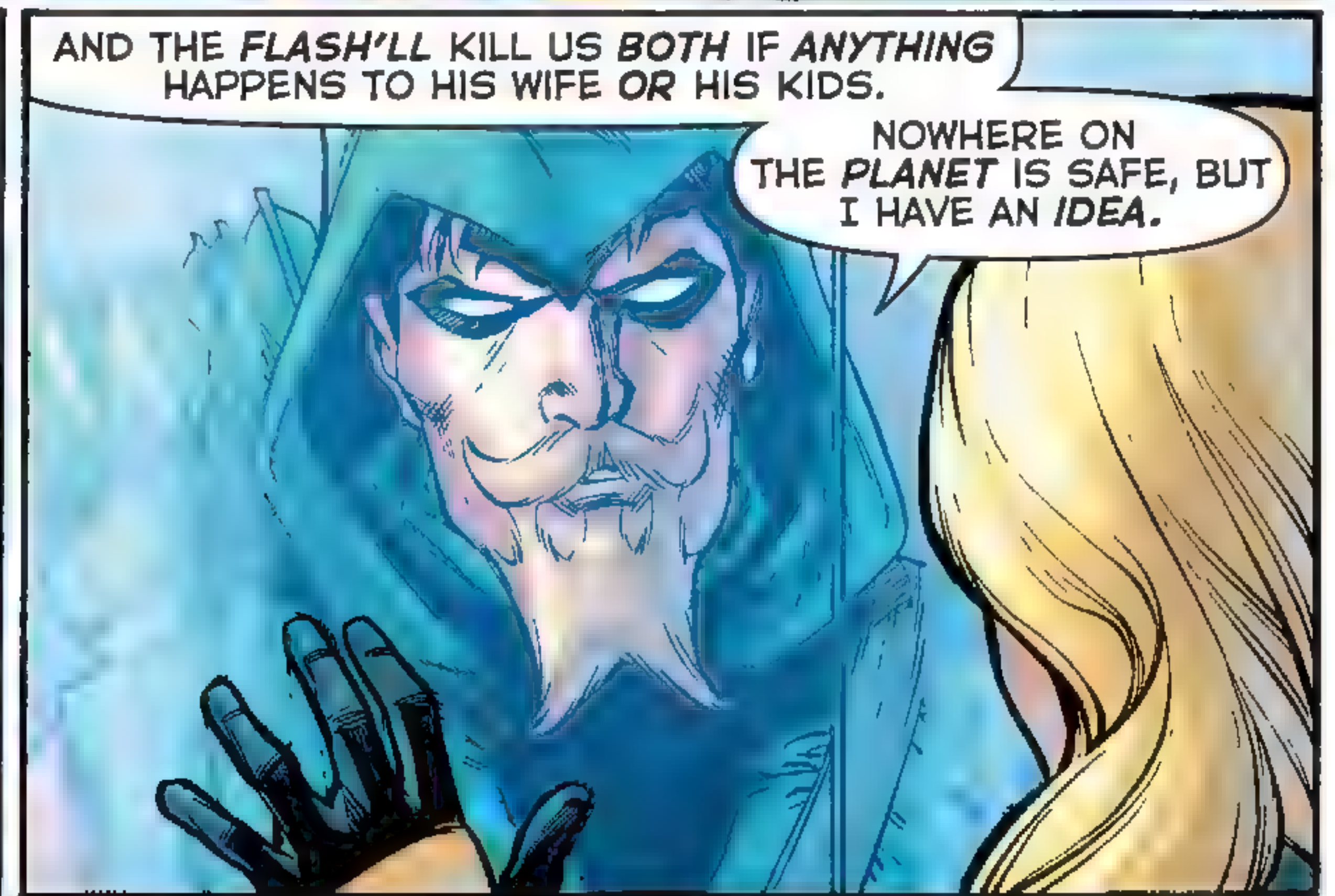


NO. NO NO!

WATCHTOWER TELEPORTS ARE OFFLINE!

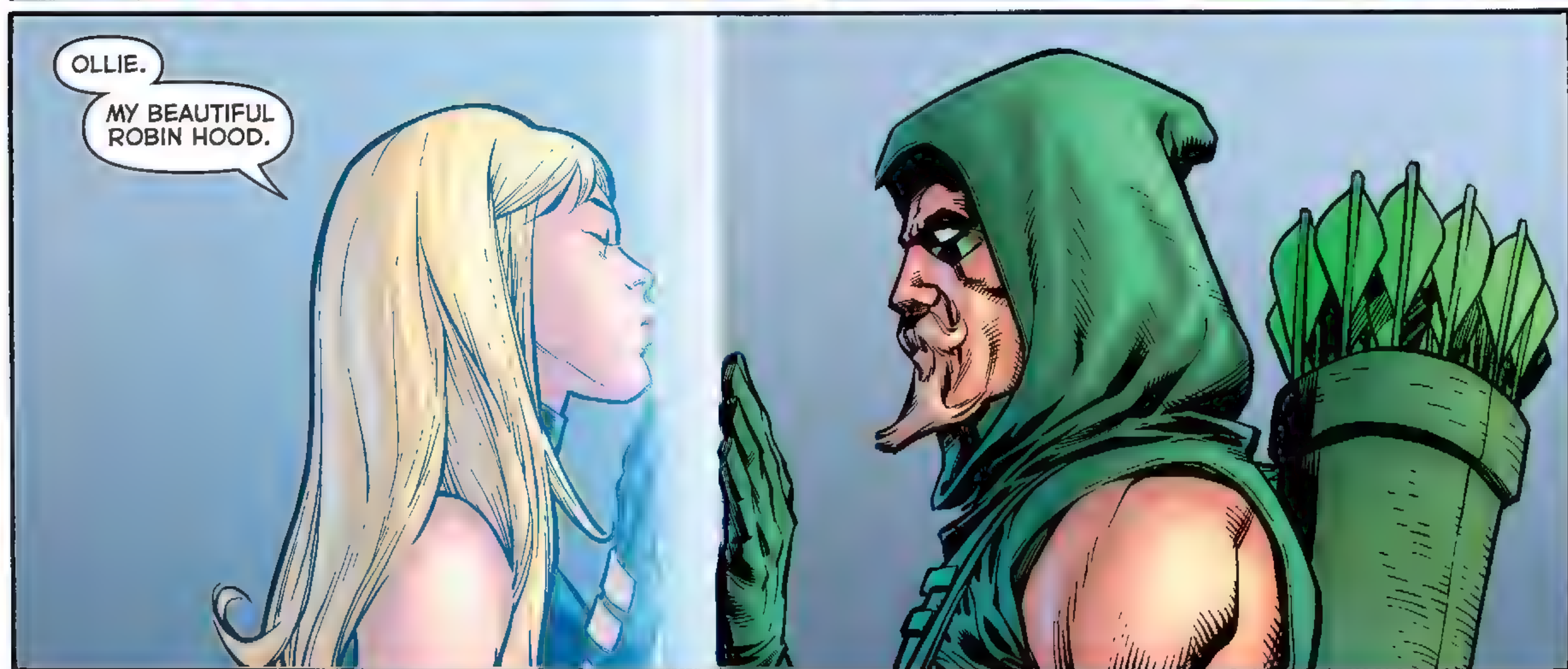
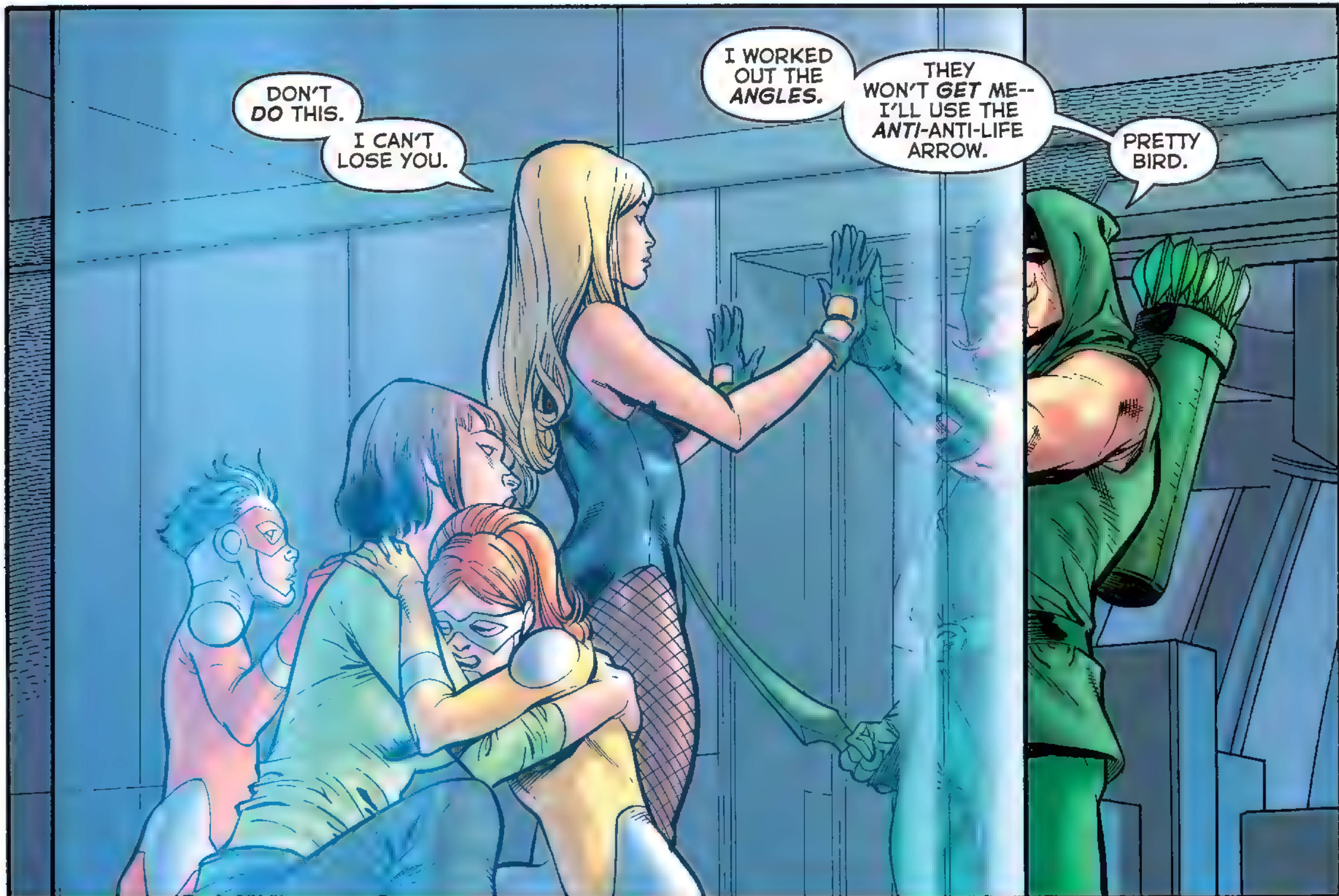
YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, T-MAN'S ROCKING THE VOODOO TATTOO.

RAY'S THE CARRIER WAVE...



AND THE FLASH'LL KILL US BOTH IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIS WIFE OR HIS KIDS.

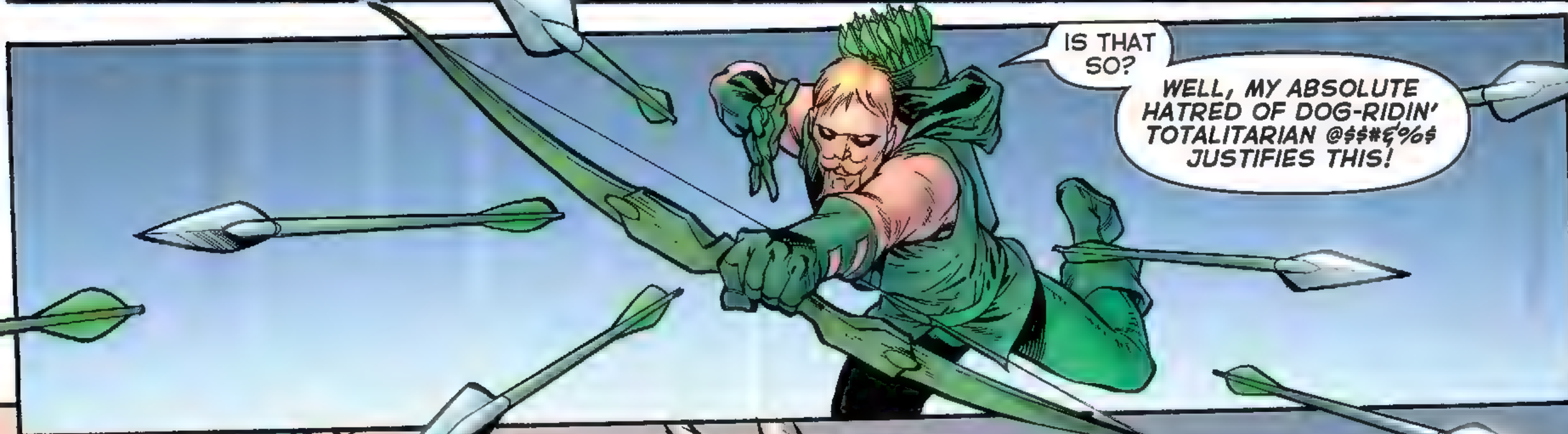
NOWHERE ON THE PLANET IS SAFE, BUT I HAVE AN IDEA.





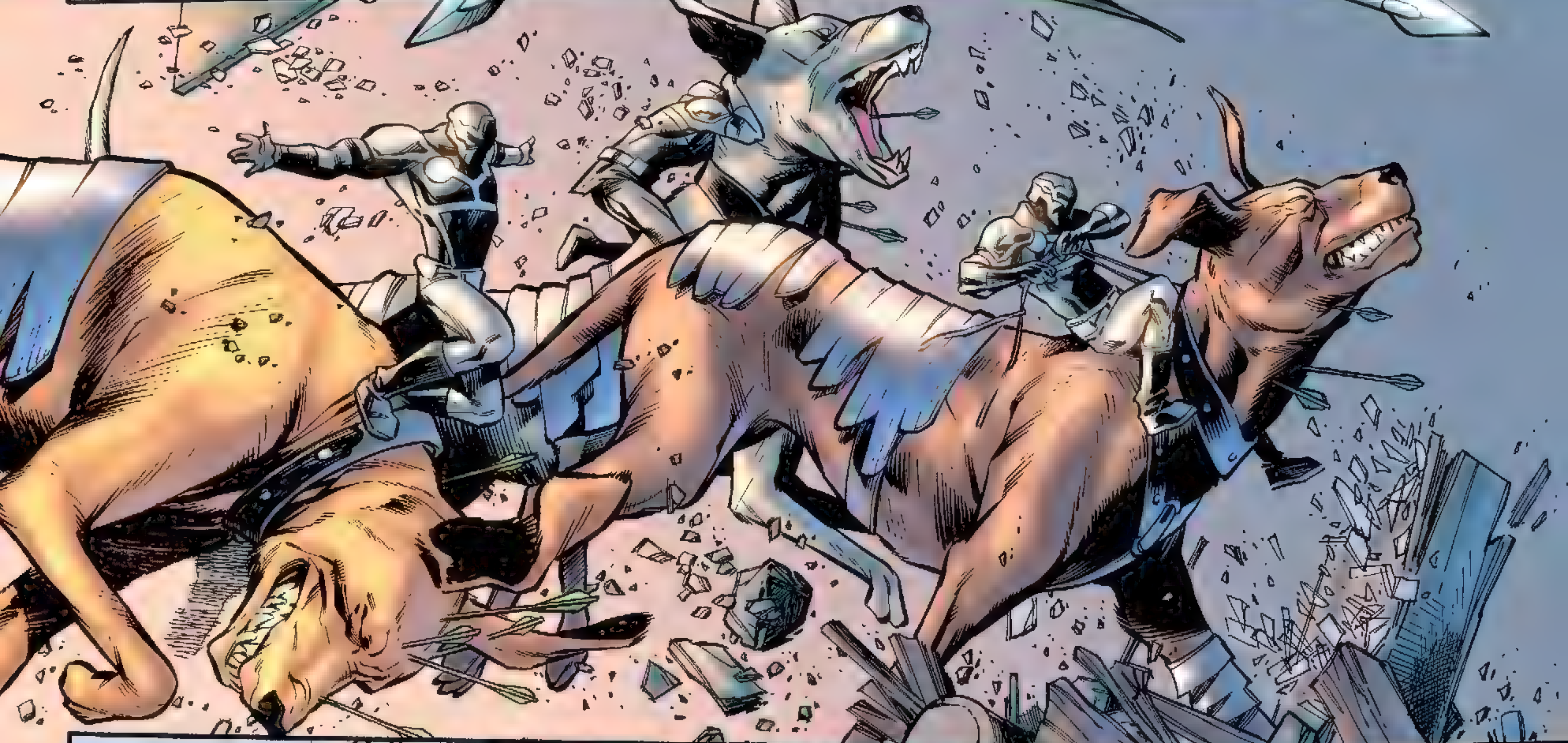
DESTROY!

ANTI-LIFE
JUSTIFIES OUR
ACTIONS!



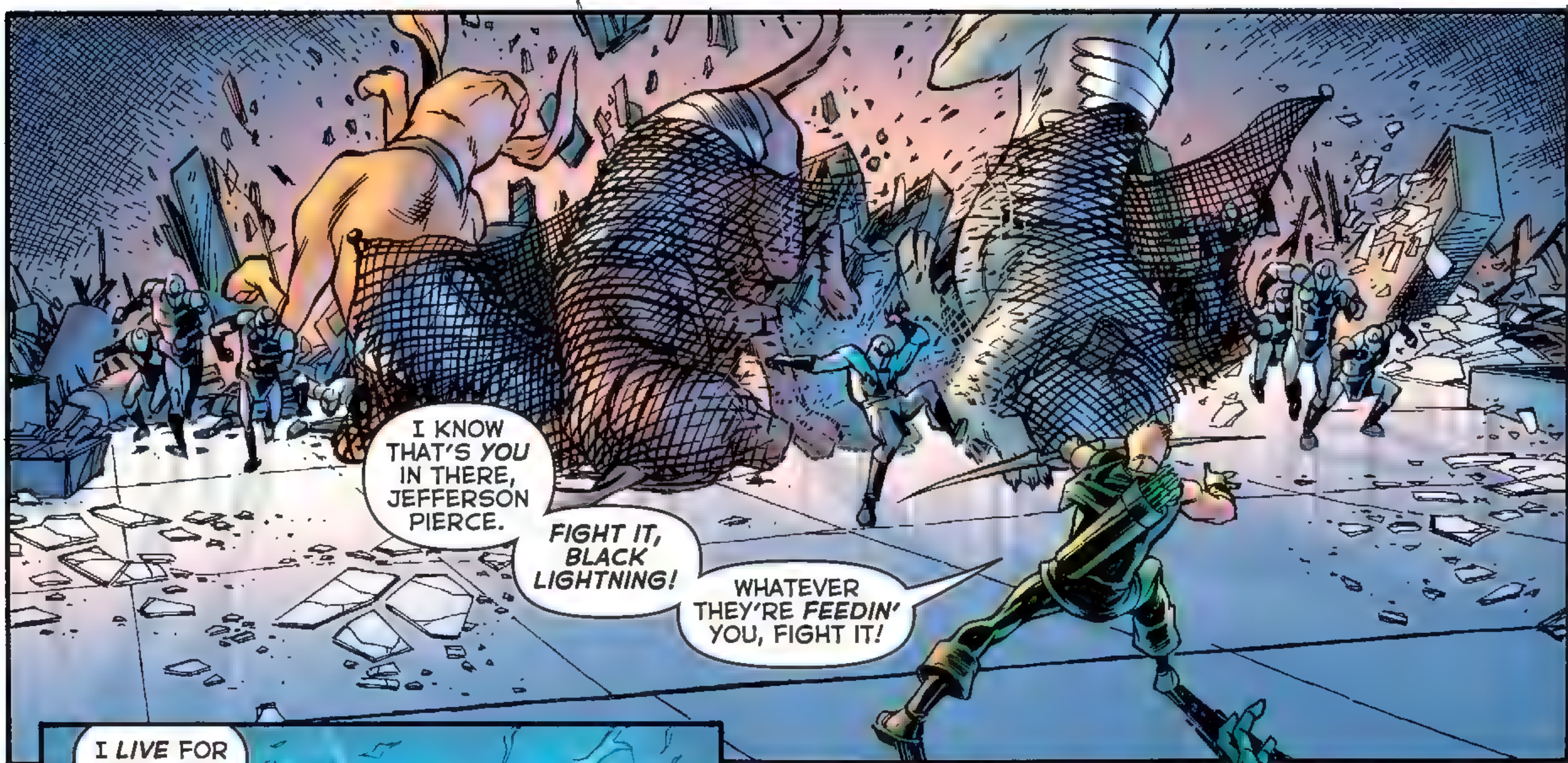
IS THAT
SO?

WELL, MY ABSOLUTE
HATRED OF DOG-RIDIN'
TOTALITARIAN @%\$#&%
JUSTIFIES THIS!



Ah,
@%\$#!

JEFFERSON!



I KNOW THAT'S YOU IN THERE, JEFFERSON PIERCE.

FIGHT IT, BLACK LIGHTNING!

WHATEVER THEY'RE FEEDIN' YOU, FIGHT IT!



I LIVE FOR ANTI-LIFE.

I DIE FOR ANTI-LIFE.

FREEDOM IS SURRENDER TO DARKSEID!

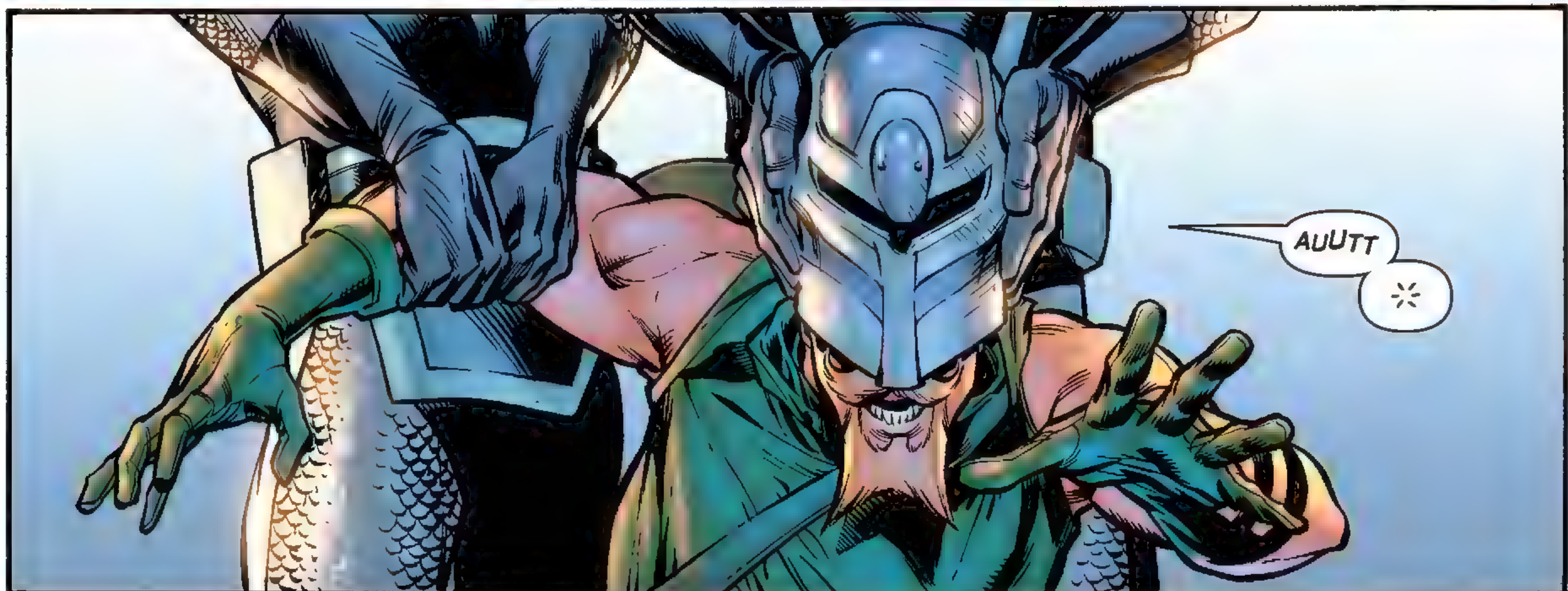


THEY'VE LEFT NO TRAIL TO FOLLOW.

YOU DIDN'T GET THEM!

YOU'LL NEVER GET US ALL, YOU BASTARDS!

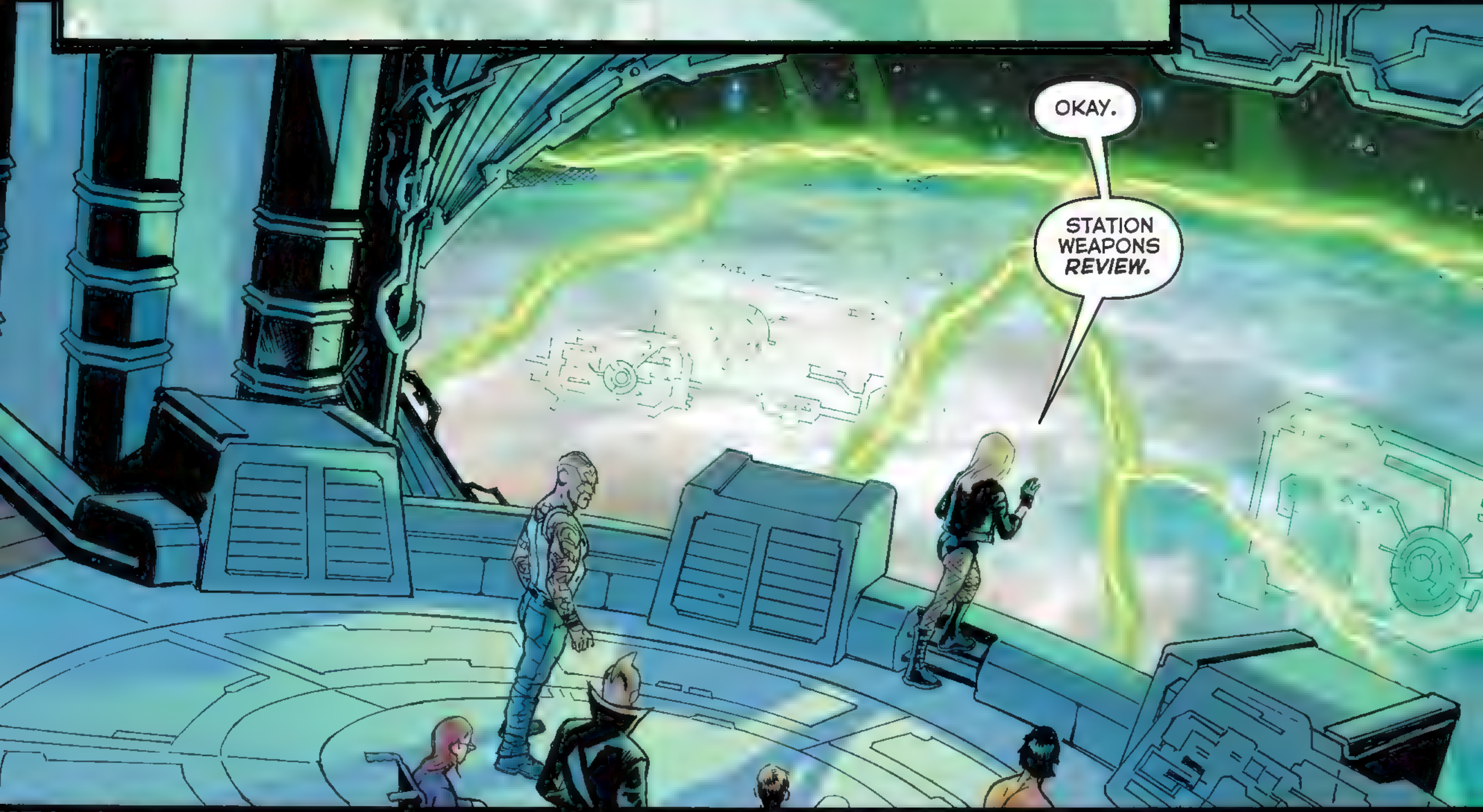
AND WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST, AND WE'LL...



AUUTT

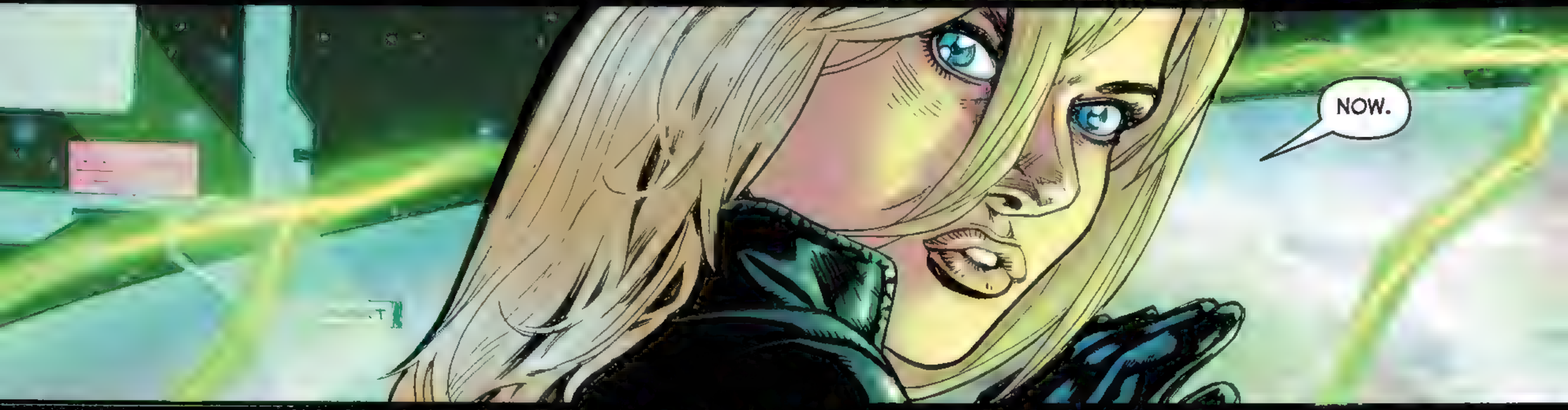


OLIVER.



OKAY.

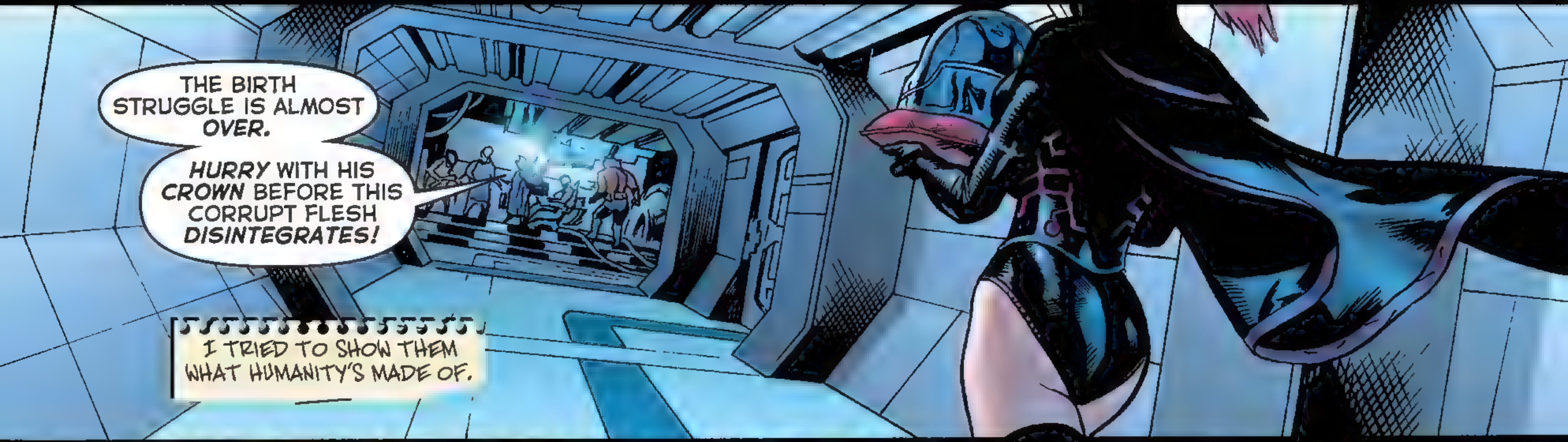
STATION
WEAPONS
REVIEW.



NOW.



YES,
SIR!



THE BIRTH STRUGGLE IS ALMOST OVER.

HURRY WITH HIS CROWN BEFORE THIS CORRUPT FLESH DISINTEGRATES!

I TRIED TO SHOW THEM WHAT HUMANITY'S MADE OF.



BUT WRESTLING WITH DARKSEID, WELL...

WHERE'S OUR BACKUP, ALAN?!

WHEN DOES IT END?

SUPER-JUSTIFIERS.

DEAR GOD, SOME OF THEM ARE OUR OWN PEOPLE!

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO BEAT THE OCEAN UNCONSCIOUS.



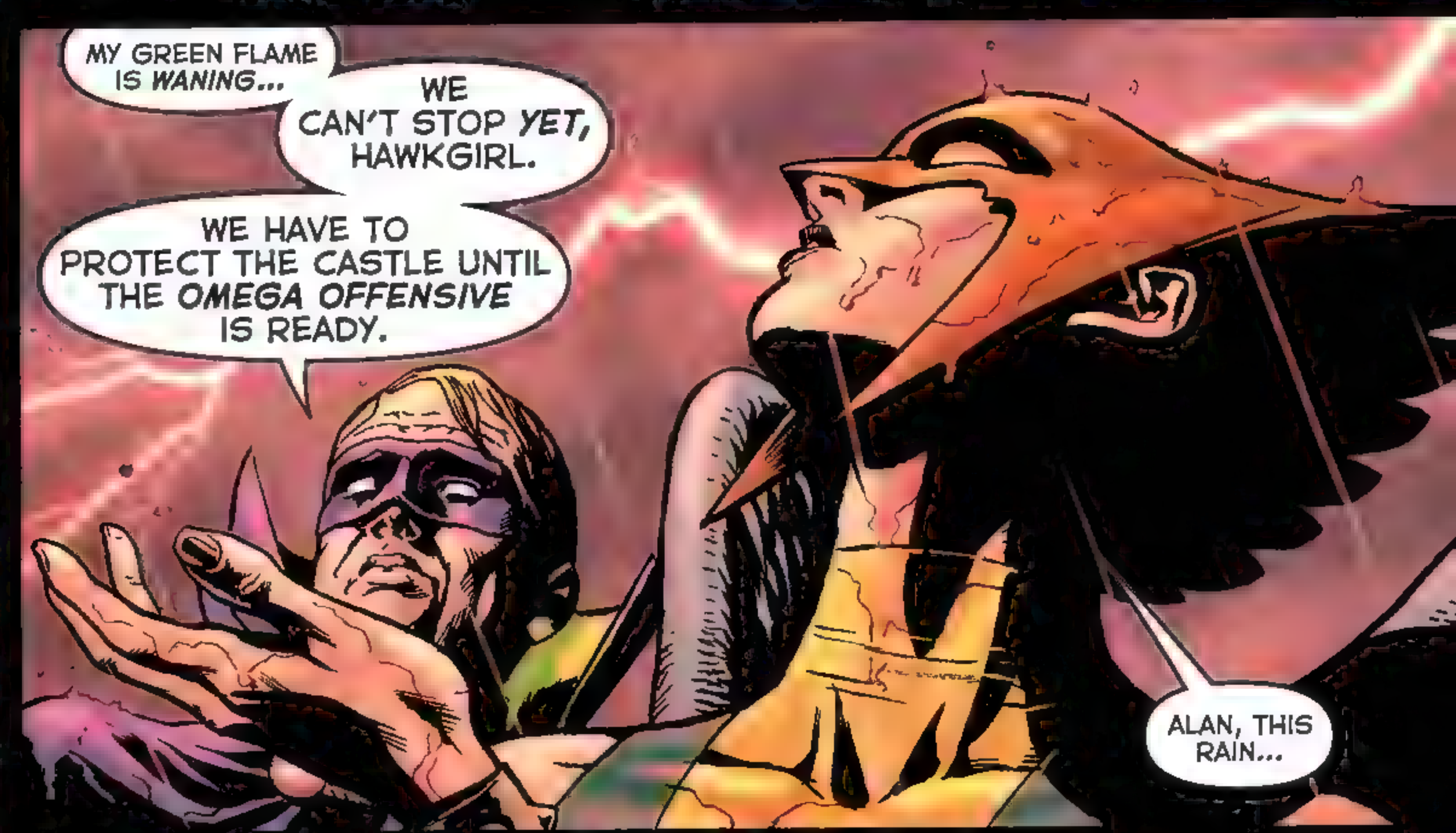
HOSANNA! WE LIVE ANOTHER DAY!

GIVE US A SIGN, GREAT DARKSEID!

THUMBS UP FOR THE TRIUMPH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT!

HE HE HEHE HEHE

...KK-KISS... KISS MY...



MY GREEN FLAME IS WANING...

WE CAN'T STOP YET, HAWKGIRL.

WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE CASTLE UNTIL THE OMEGA OFFENSIVE IS READY.

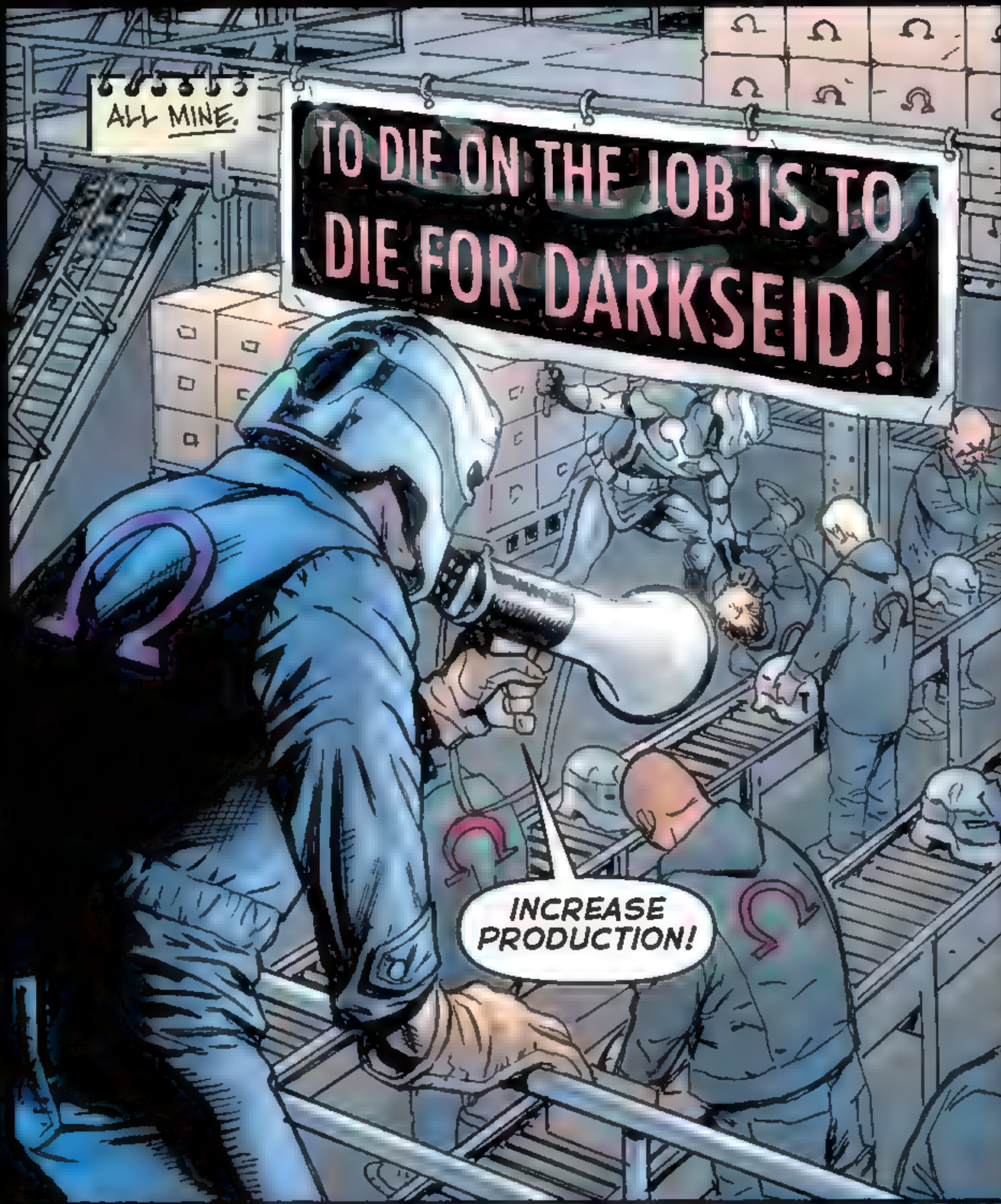
ALAN, THIS RAIN...

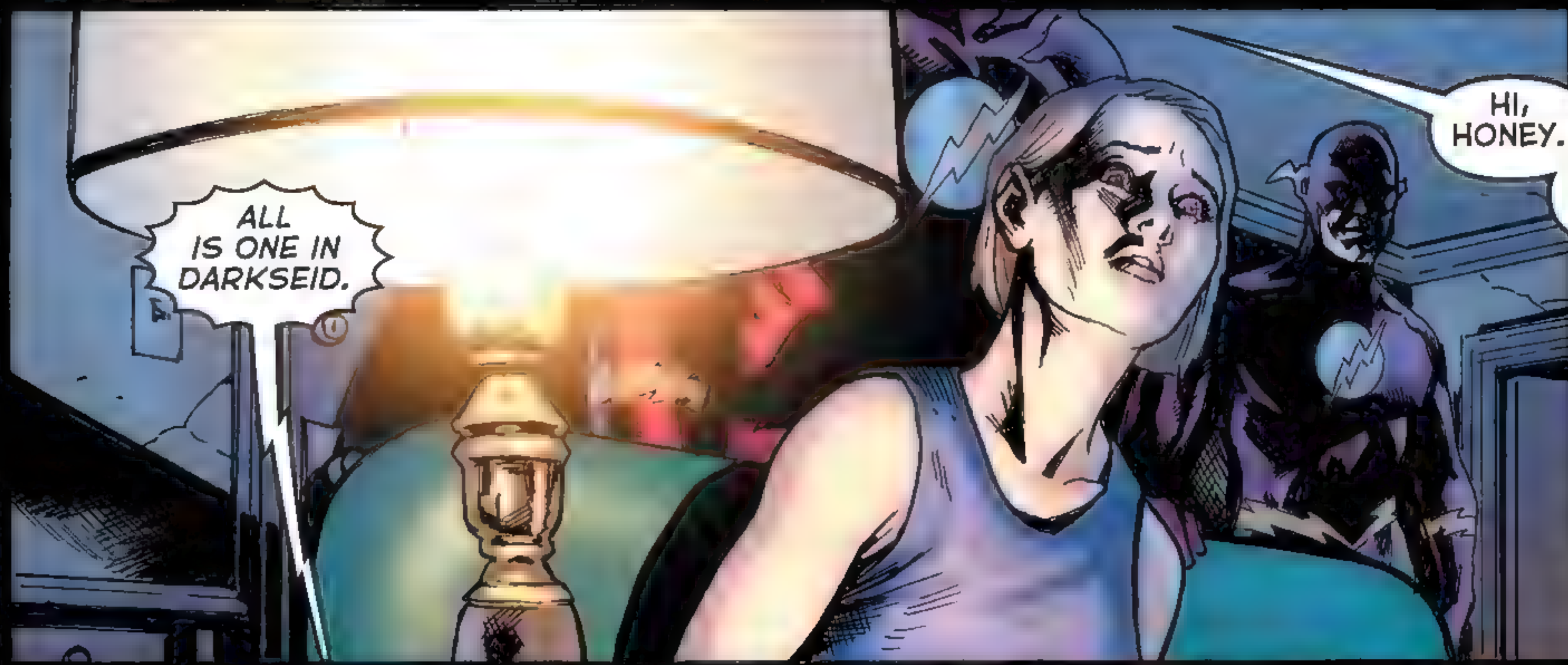


...OR THUMBS DOWN TO SUMMON A DAY OF HOLOCAUST THAT WILL NEVER END!

KISS MR'RMFF

MY CHOICE.

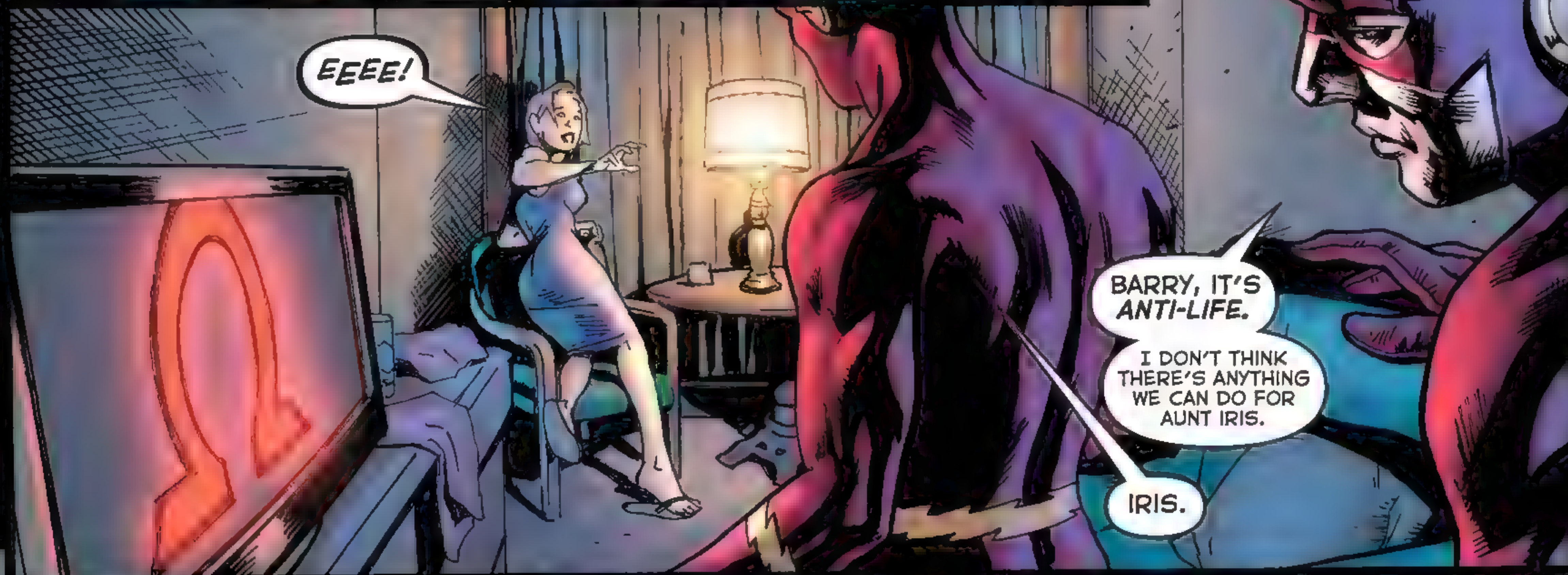




HI,
HONEY.

I'M
HOME.

ALL
IS ONE IN
DARKSEID.



EEEE!

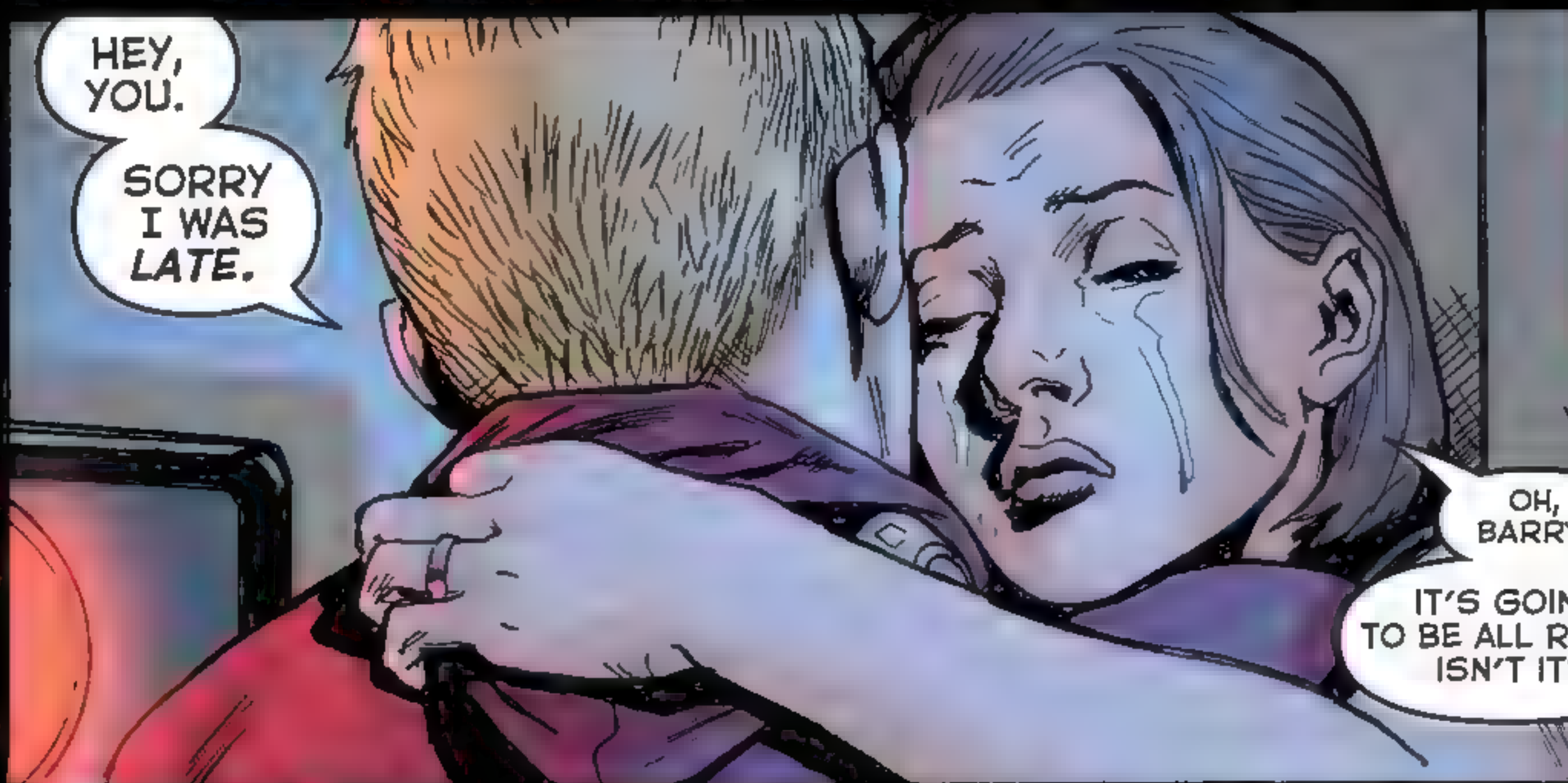
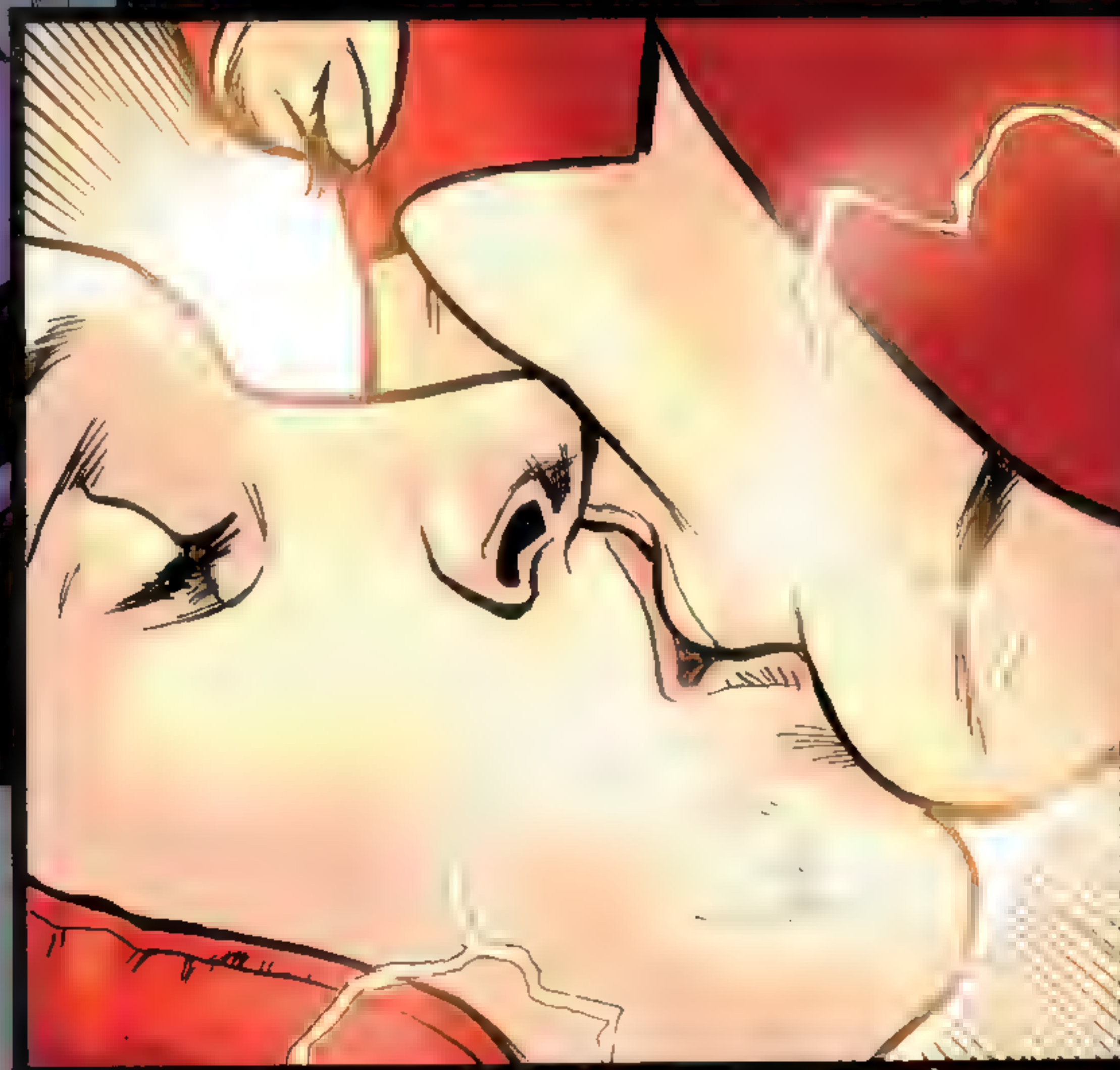
BARRY, IT'S
ANTI-LIFE.

I DON'T THINK
THERE'S ANYTHING
WE CAN DO FOR
AUNT IRIS.

IRIS.



MY IRIS. IT FEELS LIKE I'VE WAITED
A THOUSAND LIFETIMES
FOR THIS.

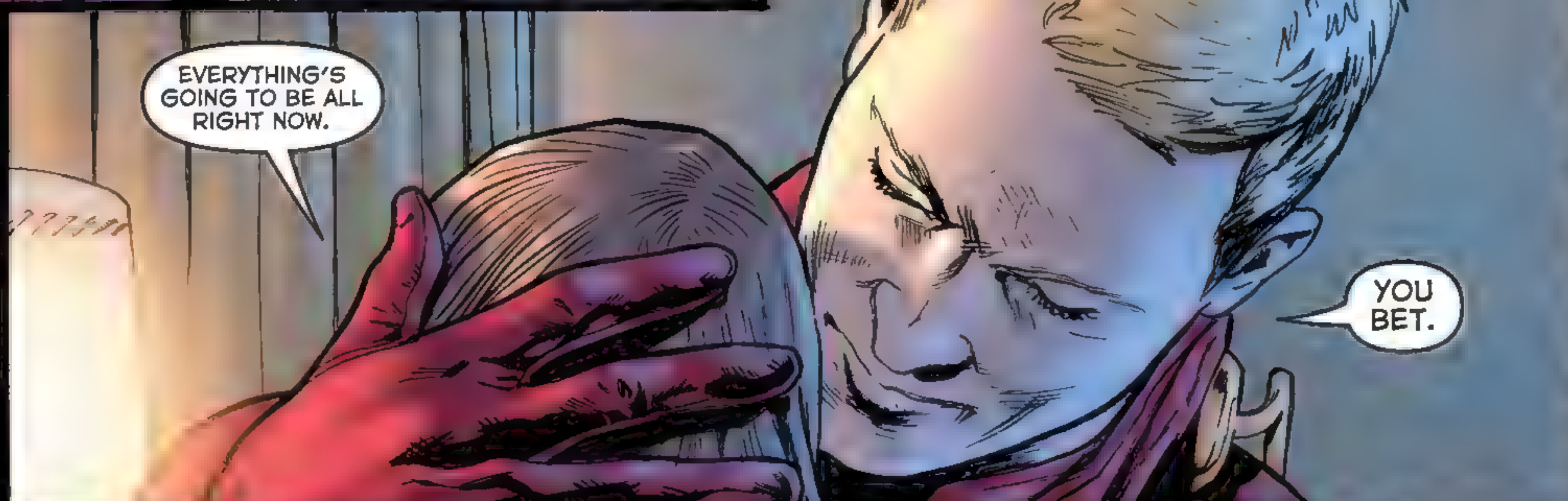


HEY,
YOU.

SORRY
I WAS
LATE.

OH,
BARRY.

IT'S GOING
TO BE ALL RIGHT,
ISN'T IT?



EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO BE ALL
RIGHT NOW.

YOU
BET.



CAN YOU FEEL IT, KENDRA?

THE WORLD OF GODS, COLLIDING INTO OURS.

AS IF WE'RE AT THE END OF EVERYTHING.

BLOOD.

IT'S RAINING BLOOD.



T-SPHERES SAY WE HAVE INCOMING!

INCOMING FROM NOWHERE!



THAT NOISE...





DON'T SHOOT!

I'M MISTER MIRACLE, SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST!



WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD!

DON'T...



FREEDOM'S SPIRIT FALLS.

A SIGN, GREAT ONE!

DEVASTATOR! LORD OF WOE! ETERNAL DARKSEID!



THE CHOICE IS SIMPLE.

BECAUSE, HERE, AT THE END,

THERE'S NO CHOICE AT ALL.

ONLY APOKOLIPS AND DARKSEID.

FOREVER.

SSSSSS
GIVE IN.





INTO OBLIVION

GRANT MORRISON
writer

J.G. JONES, CARLOS PACHECO & JESUS MERINO
artists

ALEX SINCLAIR
colorist

TRAVIS LANHAM
letterer

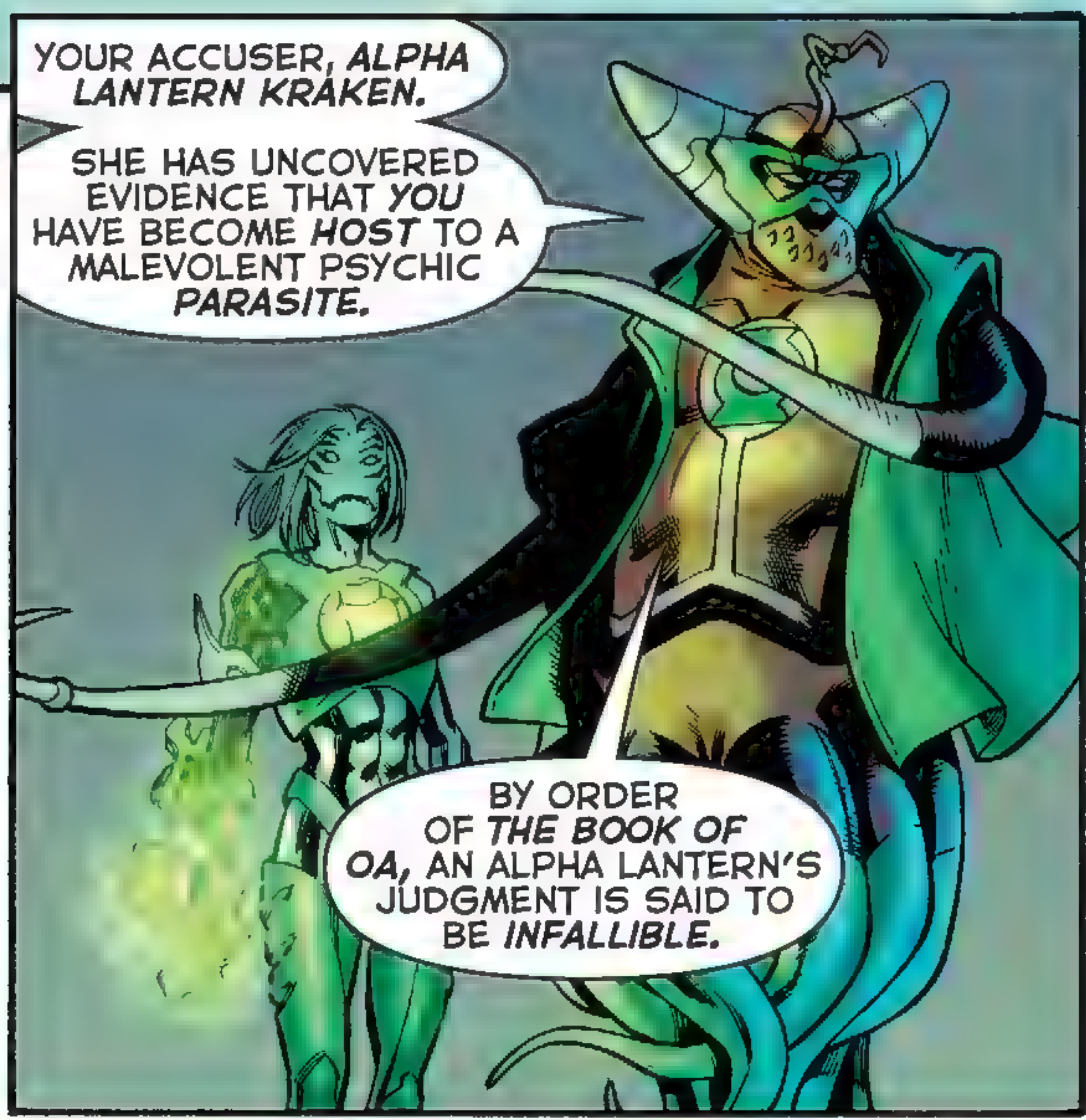
J.G. JONES
cover artist



HAL JORDAN
OF EARTH,
GREEN LANTERN
2814.1

YOU STAND
BEFORE THE
GUARDIANS OF THE
UNIVERSE AND THE
CENTRAL POWER
BATTERY.

ACCUSED OF
DEICIDE AND
CONSPIRACY TO
OVERTHROW THE
LAWS OF OA.



YOUR ACCUSER, ALPHA
LANTERN KRAKEN.

SHE HAS UNCOVERED
EVIDENCE THAT YOU
HAVE BECOME HOST TO A
MALEVOLENT PSYCHIC
PARASITE.

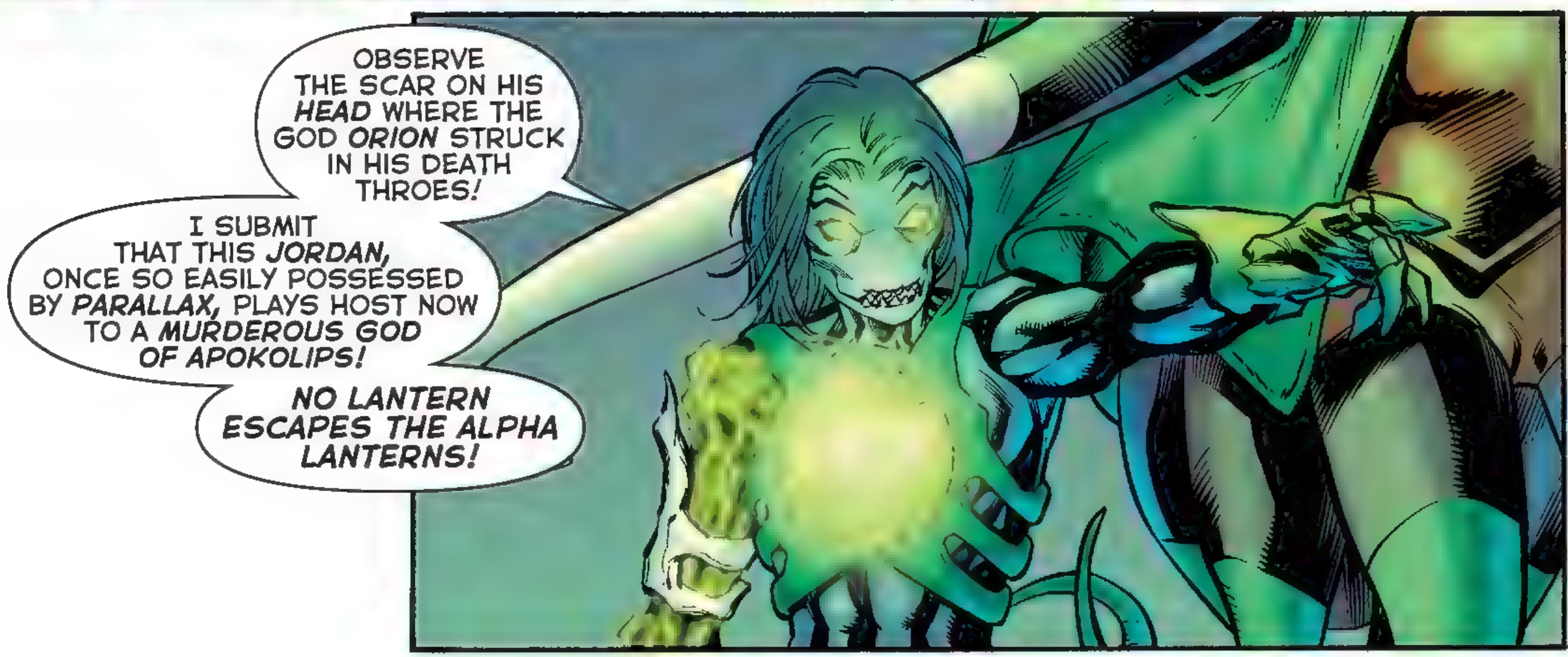
BY ORDER
OF THE BOOK OF
OA, AN ALPHA LANTERN'S
JUDGMENT IS SAID TO
BE INFALLIBLE.



THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS
INFALLIBILITY IN THIS
UNIVERSE, MALET
DASIM: I'D HAVE
NOTICED.

BUT I CAN'T
ACCOUNT FOR MY
WHEREABOUTS DURING
THE INCIDENTS.

IF ALPHA
LANTERN KRAKEN
CAN SHED ANY LIGHT
ON THAT I'M READY
TO LISTEN.



OBSERVE
THE SCAR ON HIS
HEAD WHERE THE
GOD ORION STRUCK
IN HIS DEATH
THROES!

I SUBMIT
THAT THIS JORDAN,
ONCE SO EASILY POSSESSED
BY PARALLAX, PLAYS HOST NOW
TO A MURDEROUS GOD
OF APOKOLIPS!

NO LANTERN
ESCAPES THE ALPHA
LANTERNS!



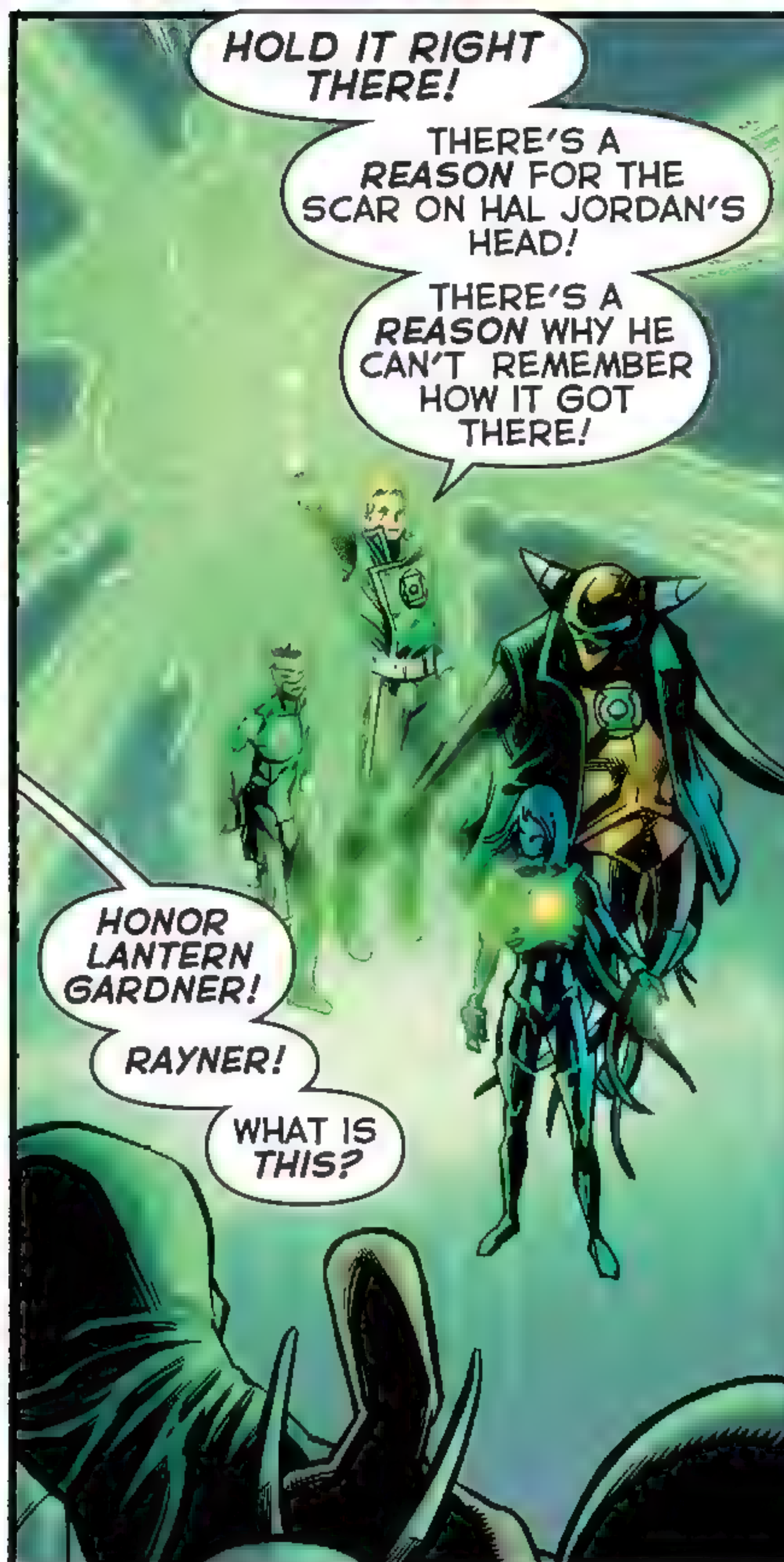
JORDAN IS A VALUED OFFICER:

WE MUST EXAMINE YOUR EVIDENCE MOST CAREFULLY.

WHAT OF HIS FELLOW LANTERNS?

SENT TO EARTH TO QUESTION LANTERN JOHN STEWART.

CAN ANYONE SPEAK IN JORDAN'S DEFENSE BEFORE WE ENACT JUDGMENT?



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

THERE'S A REASON FOR THE SCAR ON HAL JORDAN'S HEAD!

THERE'S A REASON WHY HE CAN'T REMEMBER HOW IT GOT THERE!

HONOR LANTERN GARDNER!

RAYNER!

WHAT IS THIS?



WE COULDN'T GET NEAR EARTH!

WE THINK THE SCAR ON HAL JORDAN'S HEAD IS HIDING AN IMPLANT, PROSECUTOR!

A SUPPRESSOR FIELD CHIP!

THAT'S WHY SHE'S BEEN STAYING CLOSE TO HIM!

SHE PUT IT THERE WHILE HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS AND IT'S HIDING HER FROM DETECTION!



ALPHA LANTERN KRAKEN IS HOSTING ONE OF THE APOKOLIPS GODS!

SHE TRIED TO MURDER GREEN LANTERN JOHN STEWART!

AND WE AIN'T HAVING IT!



IMPOSSIBLE.

NO LANTERN ESCAPES THE ALPHA LANTERNS!

THE EARTH ALIENS ARE IN LEAGUE.



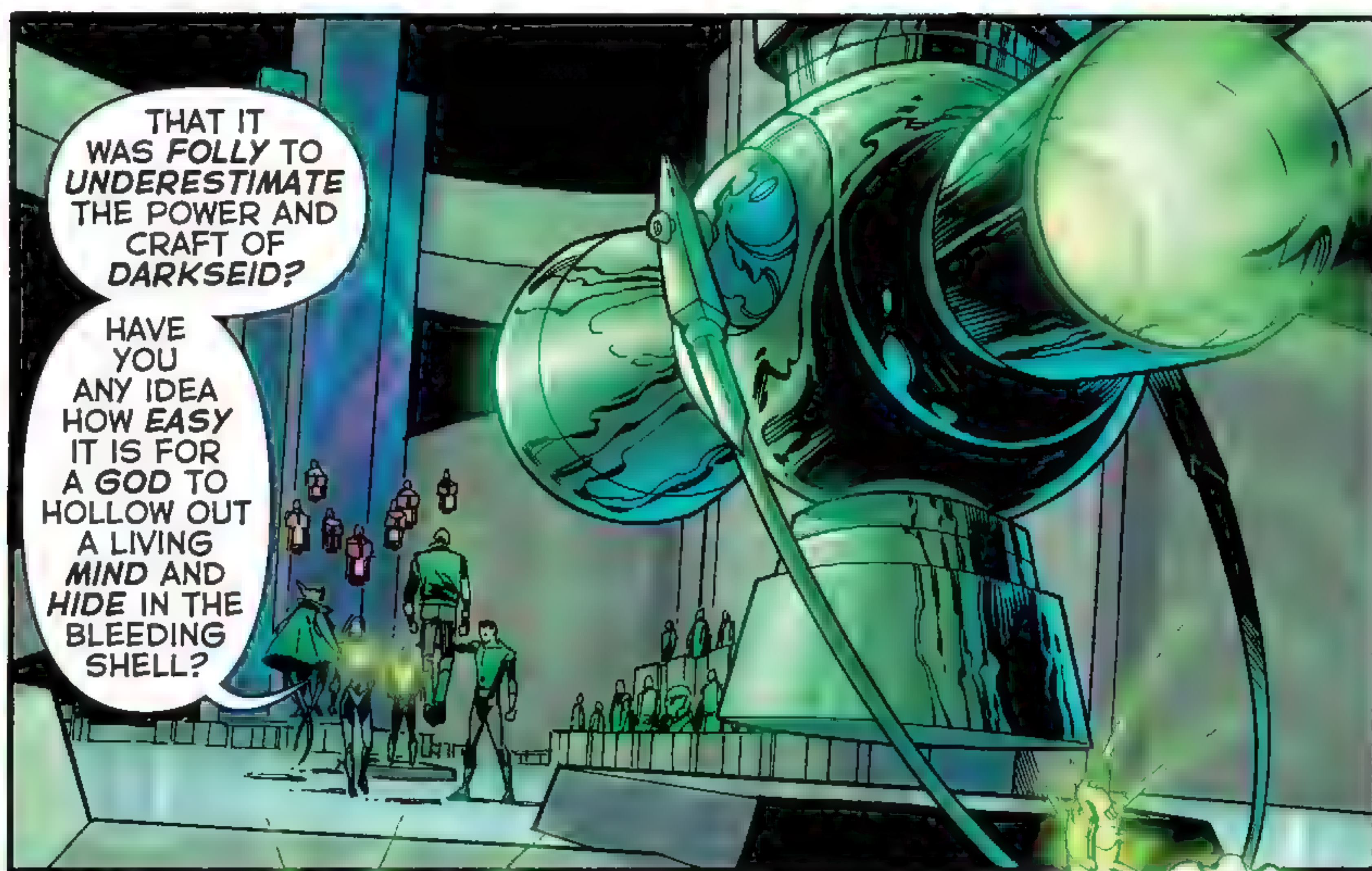
AN ALPHA CANNOT BE COMPROMISED...

THAT WAS THE VERY POINT OF THEIR CREATION!

INFALLIBLE.

KRAKEN!

WHAT CAN I SAY?



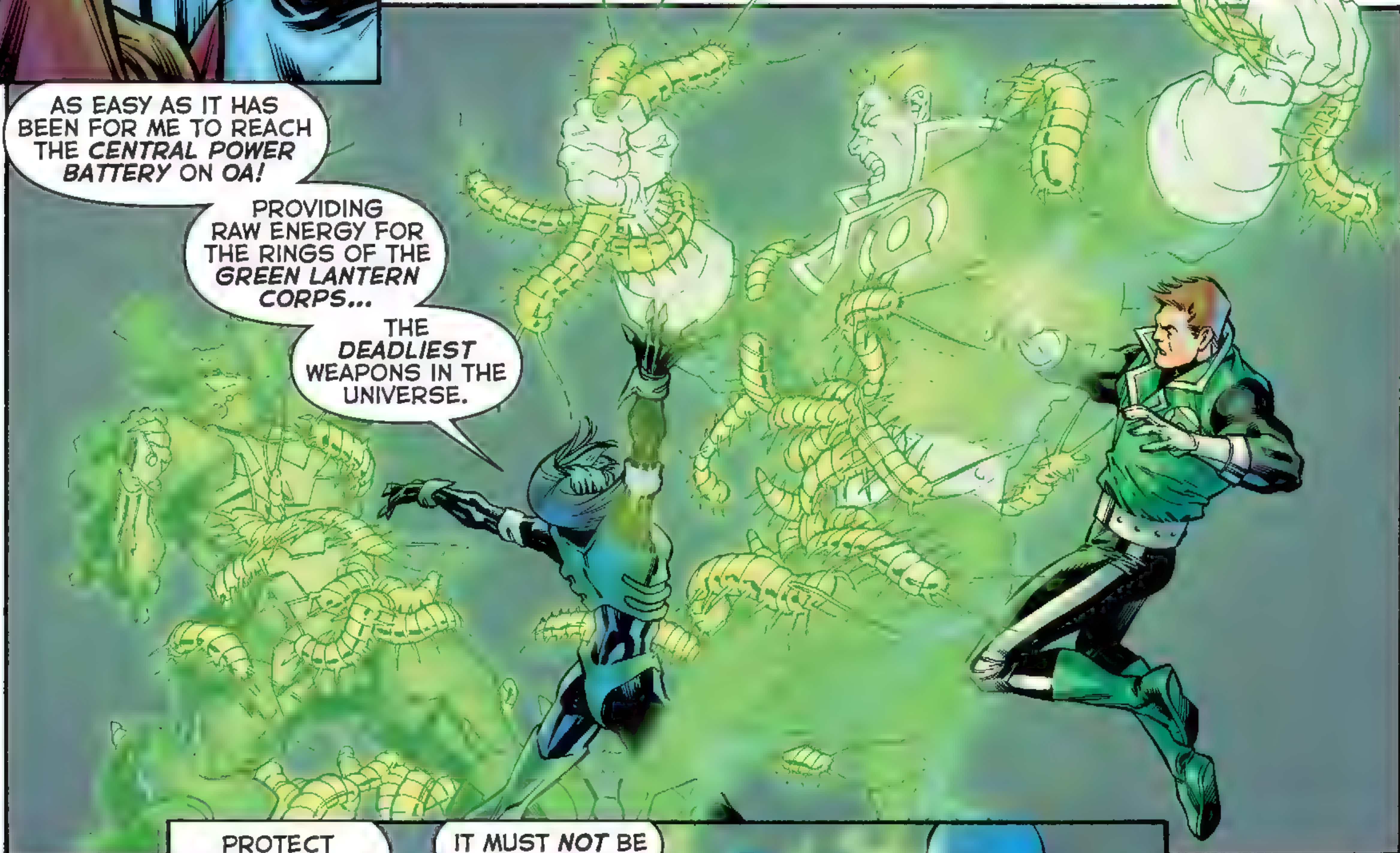
THAT IT WAS FOLLY TO UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER AND CRAFT OF DARKSEID?

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW EASY IT IS FOR A GOD TO HOLLOW OUT A LIVING MIND AND HIDE IN THE BLEEDING SHELL?

AS EASY AS IT HAS BEEN FOR ME TO REACH THE CENTRAL POWER BATTERY ON OA!

PROVIDING RAW ENERGY FOR THE RINGS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS...

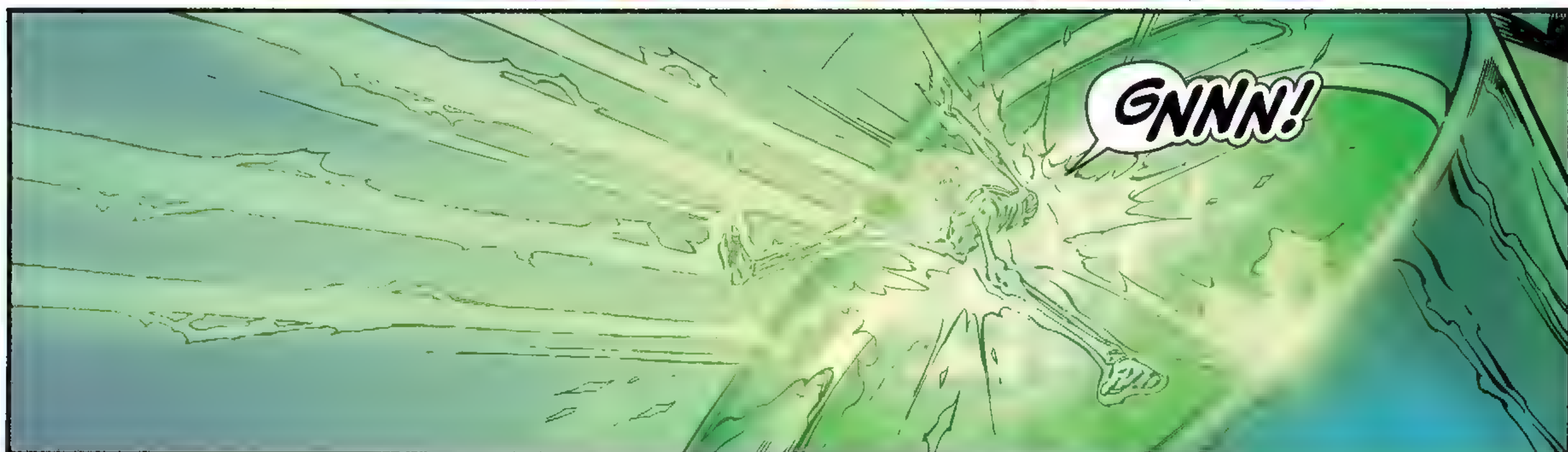
THE DEADLIEST WEAPONS IN THE UNIVERSE.



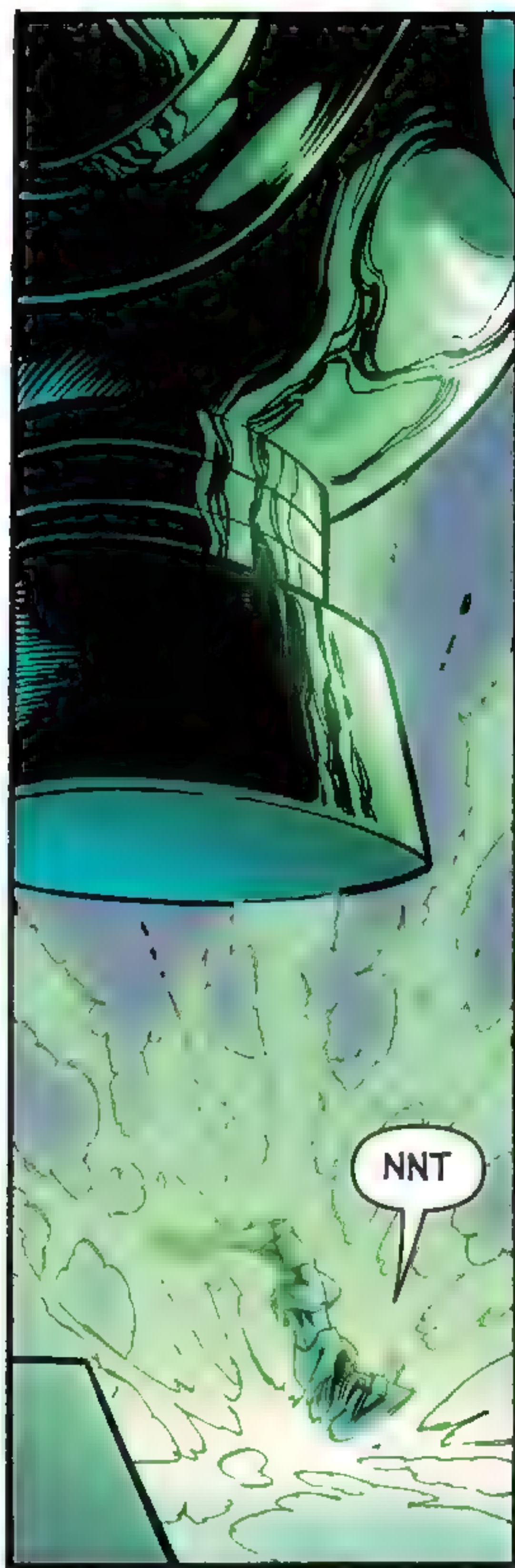
PROTECT THE BATTERY AT ALL COSTS!

IT MUST NOT BE CORRUPTED.

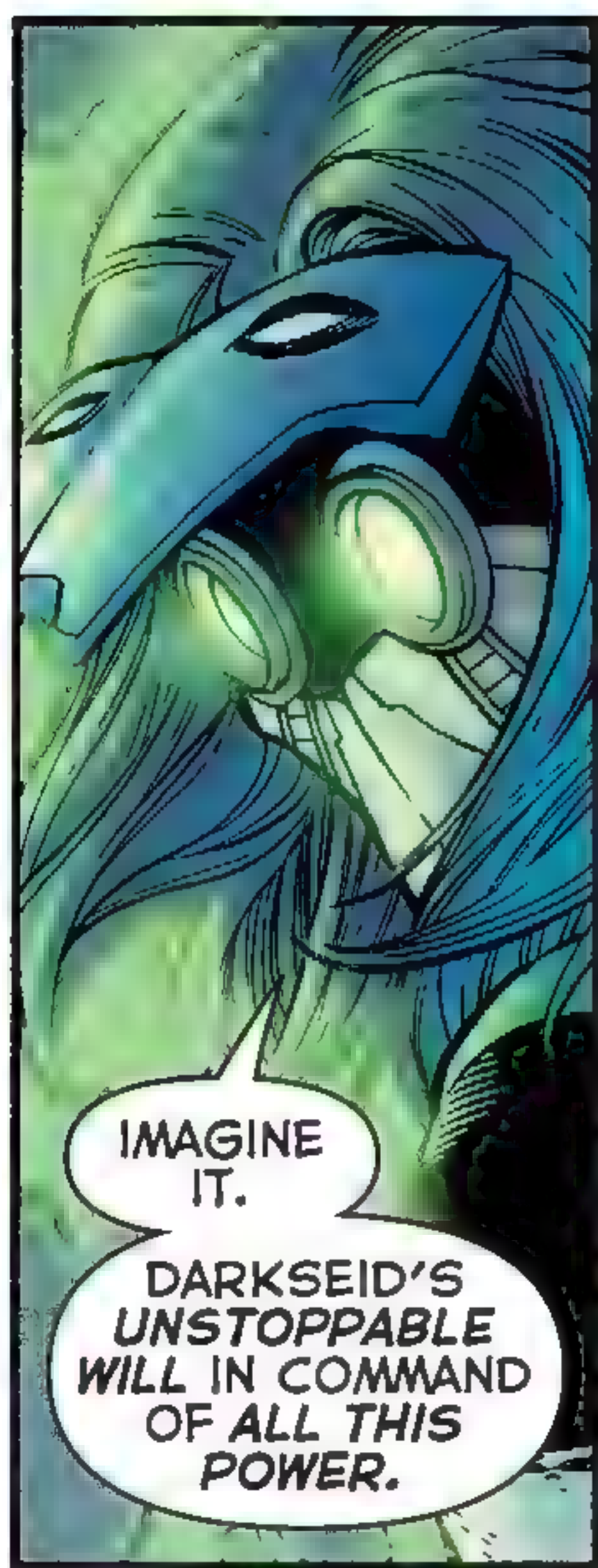
STOP HER!



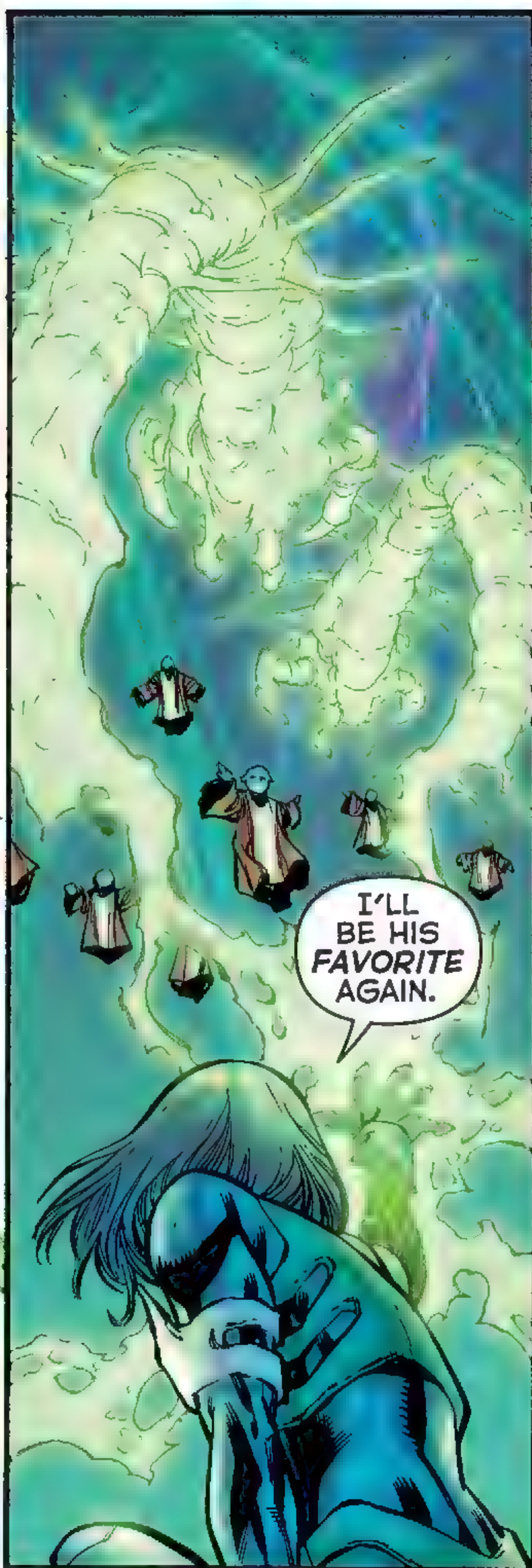
GNNN!



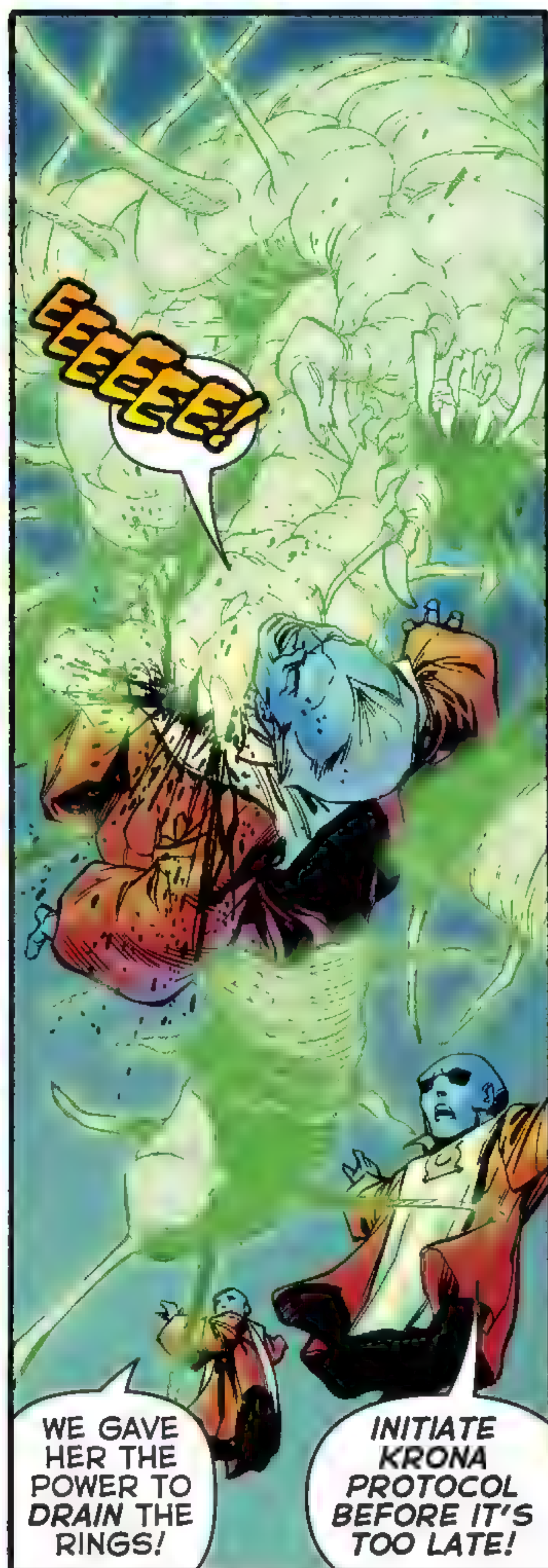
NNT



IMAGINE IT.
DARKSEID'S UNSTOPPABLE WILL IN COMMAND OF ALL THIS POWER.



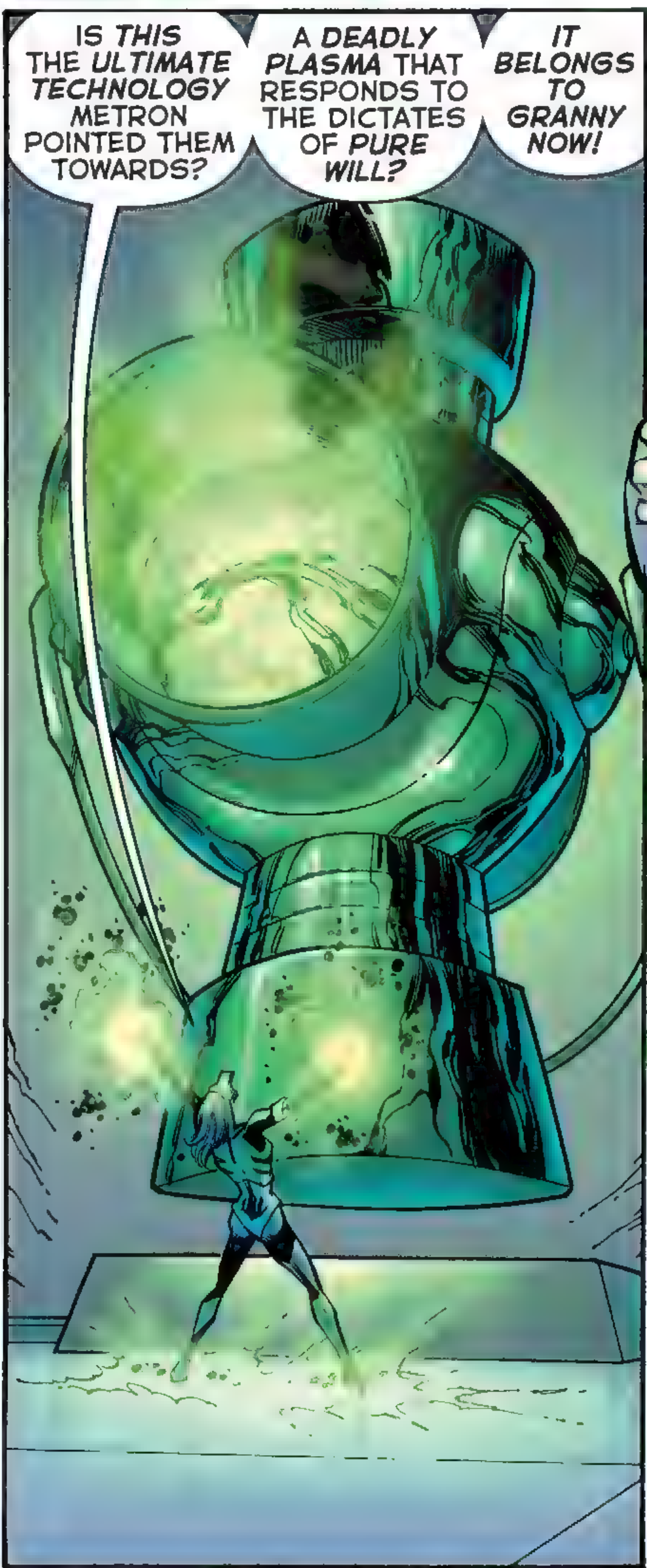
I'LL BE HIS FAVORITE AGAIN.



EEEEEE!

WE GAVE HER THE POWER TO DRAIN THE RINGS!

INITIATE KRONA PROTOCOL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



IS THIS THE ULTIMATE TECHNOLOGY METRON POINTED THEM TOWARDS?

A DEADLY PLASMA THAT RESPONDS TO THE DICTATES OF PURE WILL?

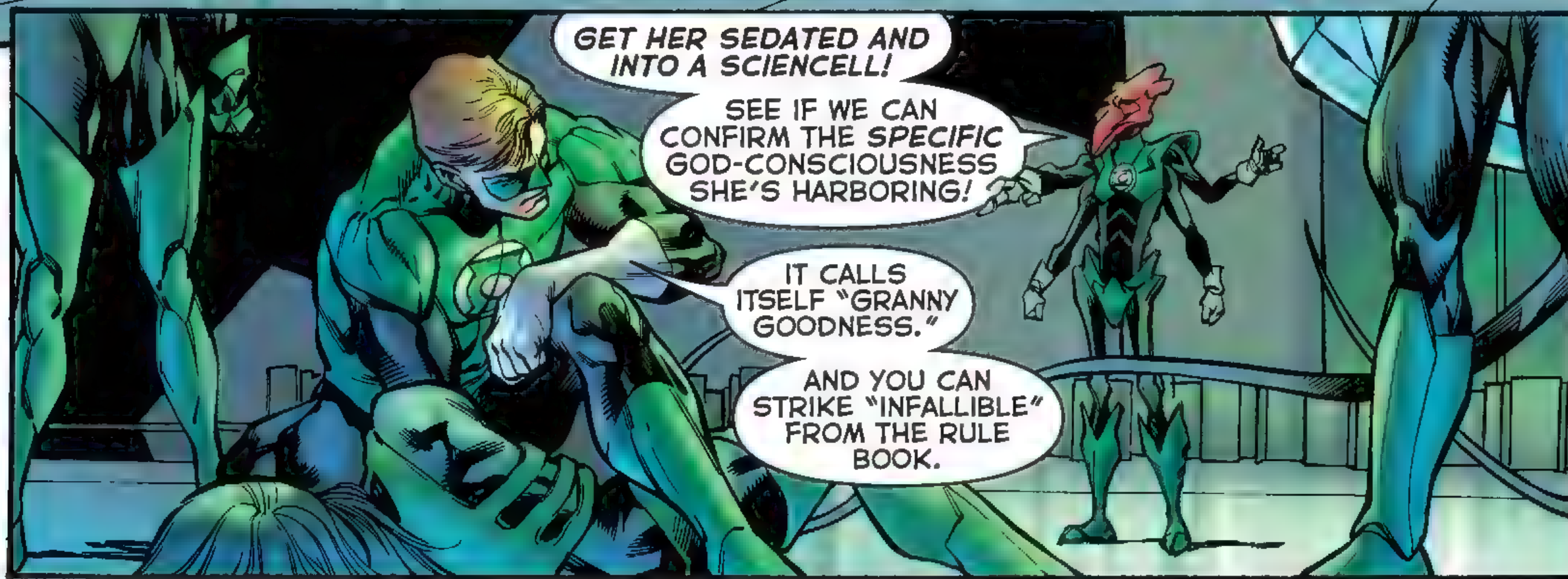
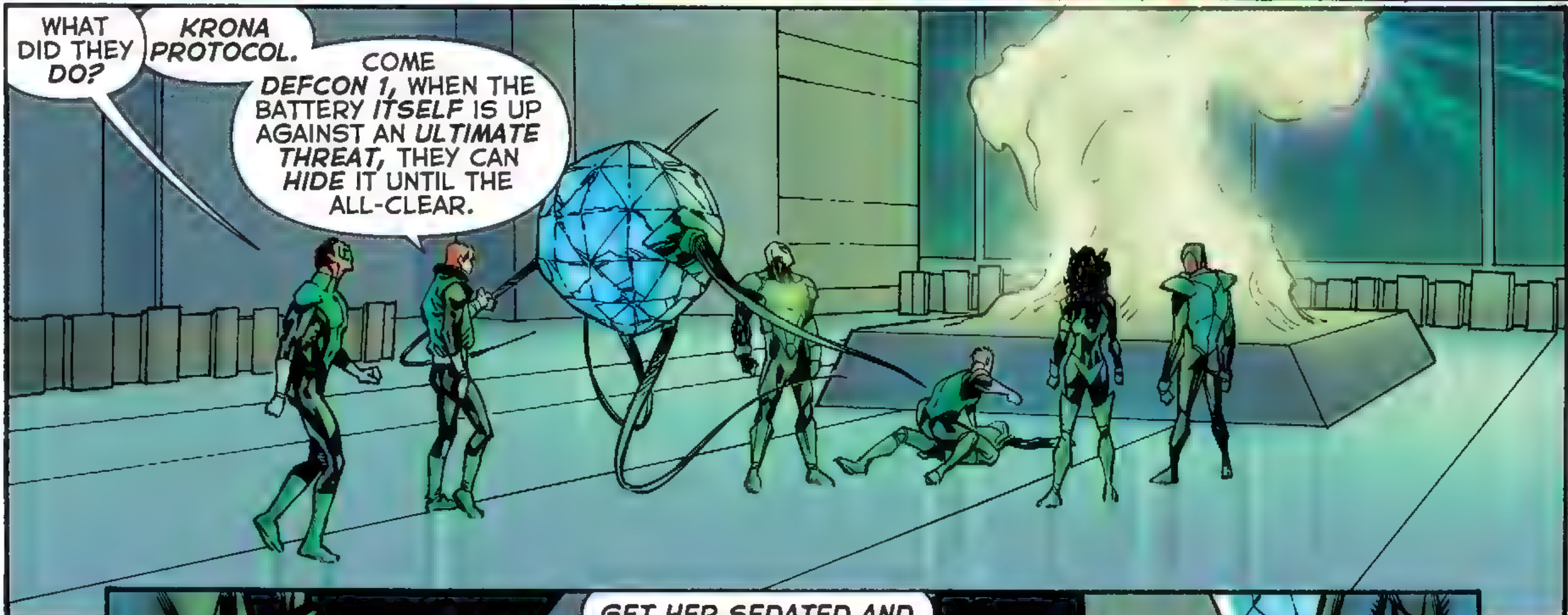
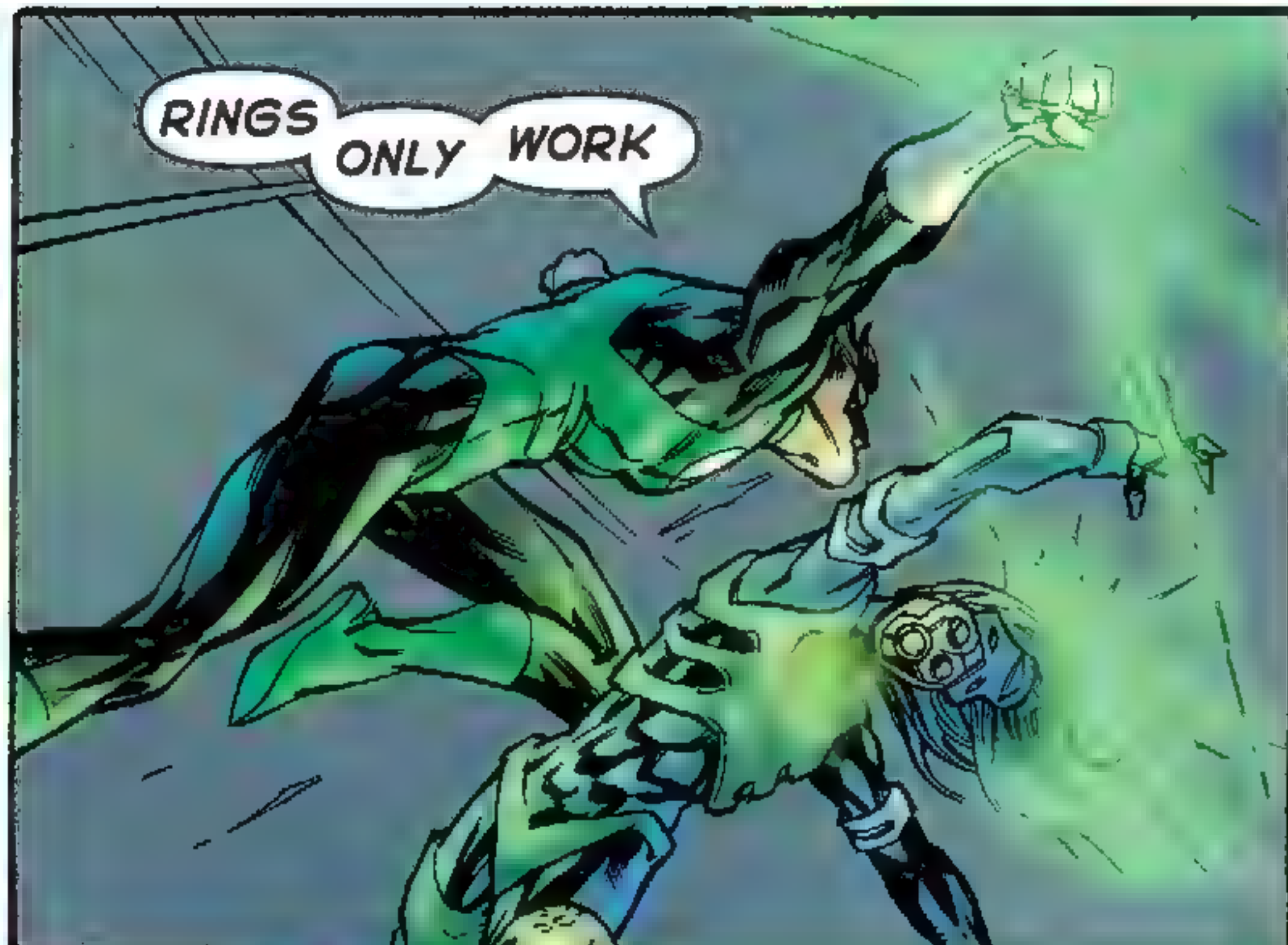
IT BELONGS TO GRANNY NOW!



ALPHA RING POWER AT 30%

15%

AAAAHH!





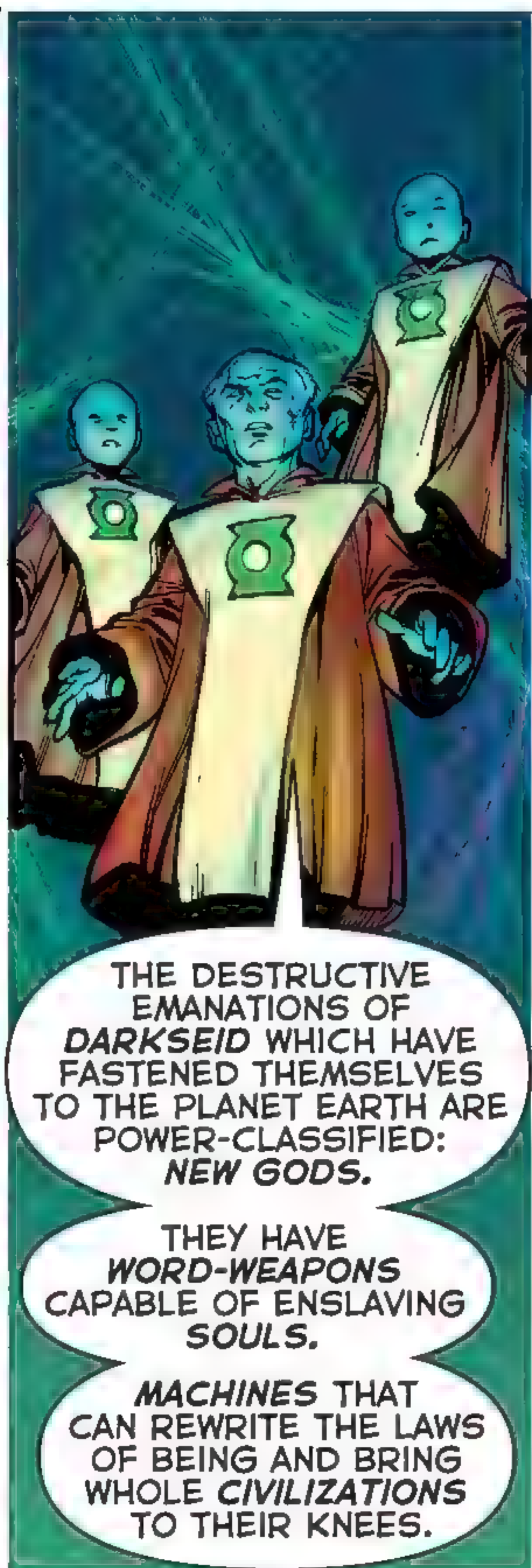
HAL, IT'S
HARDCORE.

SPACETIME
AROUND THE
EARTH JUST
CRUMPLED,
LIKE IT WAS
CRUSHED IN
A FIST.

WEEKS
SMASHED
INTO
DAYS.

THEY
COULDN'T
HAVE KNOWN
WHAT HIT
'EM.

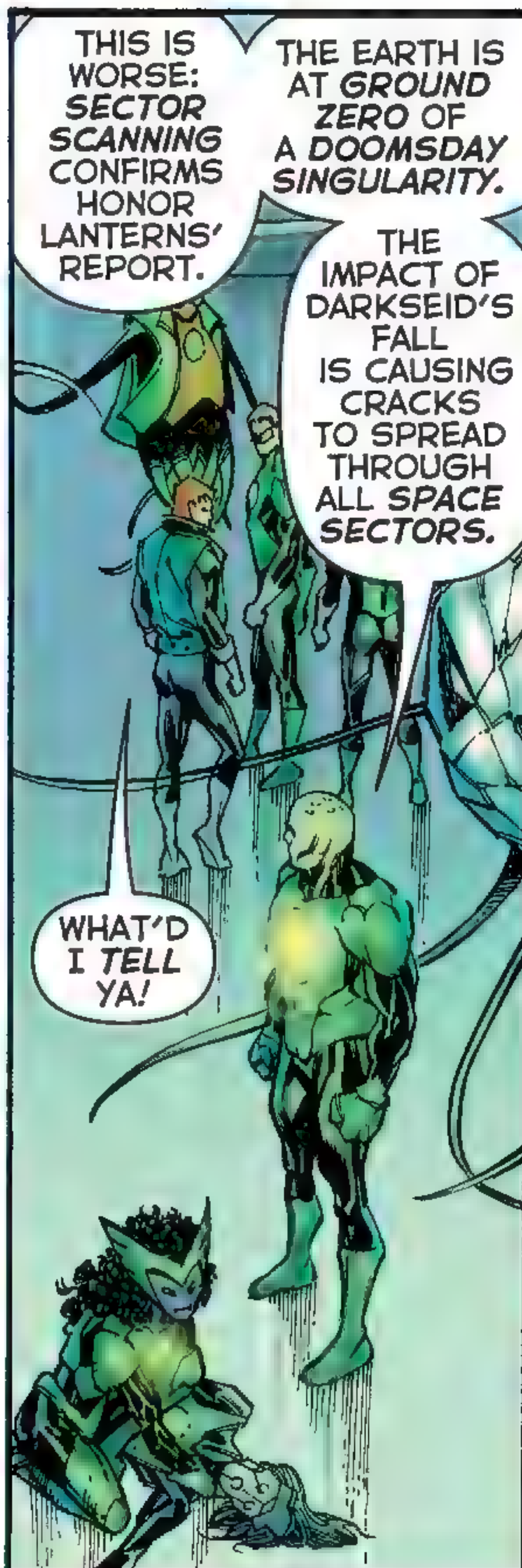
WE
COULDN'T GET
CLOSE TO THE
GRAVITY SINK
WITHOUT BEING
SUCKED IN.



THE DESTRUCTIVE
EMANATIONS OF
DARKSEID WHICH HAVE
FASTENED THEMSELVES
TO THE PLANET EARTH ARE
POWER-CLASSIFIED:
NEW GODS.

THEY HAVE
WORD-WEAPONS
CAPABLE OF ENSLAVING
SOULS.

MACHINES THAT
CAN REWRITE THE LAWS
OF BEING AND BRING
WHOLE CIVILIZATIONS
TO THEIR KNEES.



THIS IS
WORSE:
SECTOR
SCANNING
CONFIRMS
HONOR
LANTERNS'
REPORT.

THE EARTH IS
AT GROUND
ZERO OF
A DOOMSDAY
SINGULARITY.

THE
IMPACT OF
DARKSEID'S
FALL
IS CAUSING
CRACKS
TO SPREAD
THROUGH
ALL SPACE
SECTORS.

WHAT'D
I TELL
YA!



JOHN STEWART'S
STILL DOWN THERE!

DARKSEID'S DRAGGING
ALL OUR FRIENDS INTO
HELL WITH HIM!

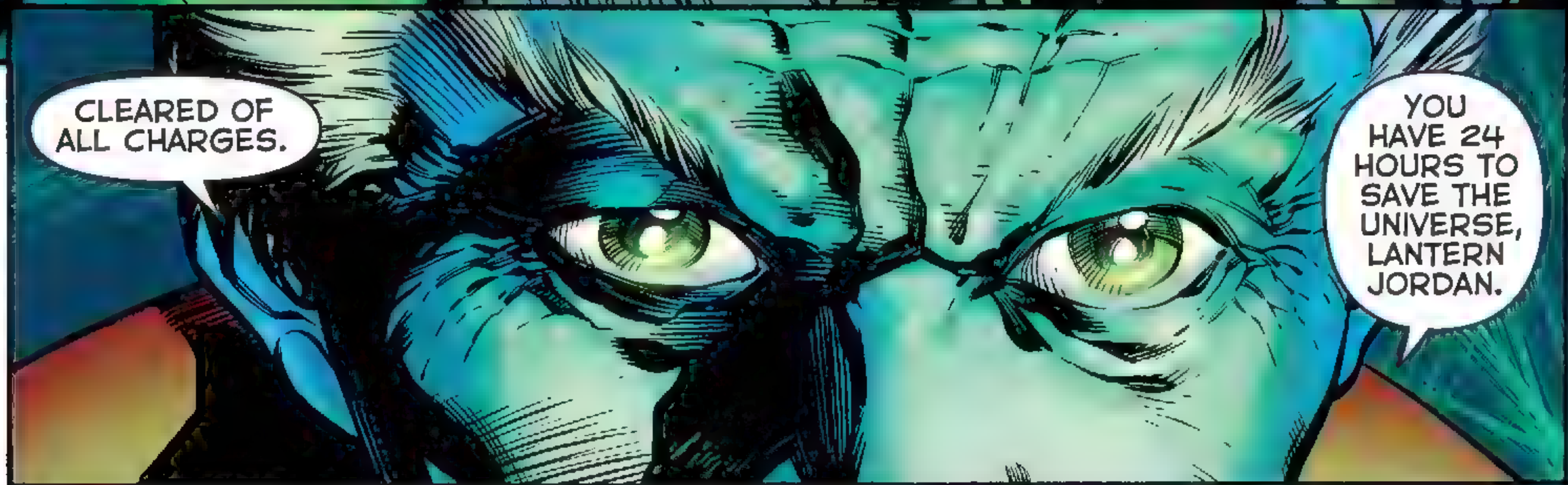
THEN I SAY
WE GO IN AFTER
HIM, GUY.

YOU,
ME, KYLE,
ANYBODY
ELSE WHO
WANTS
TO.



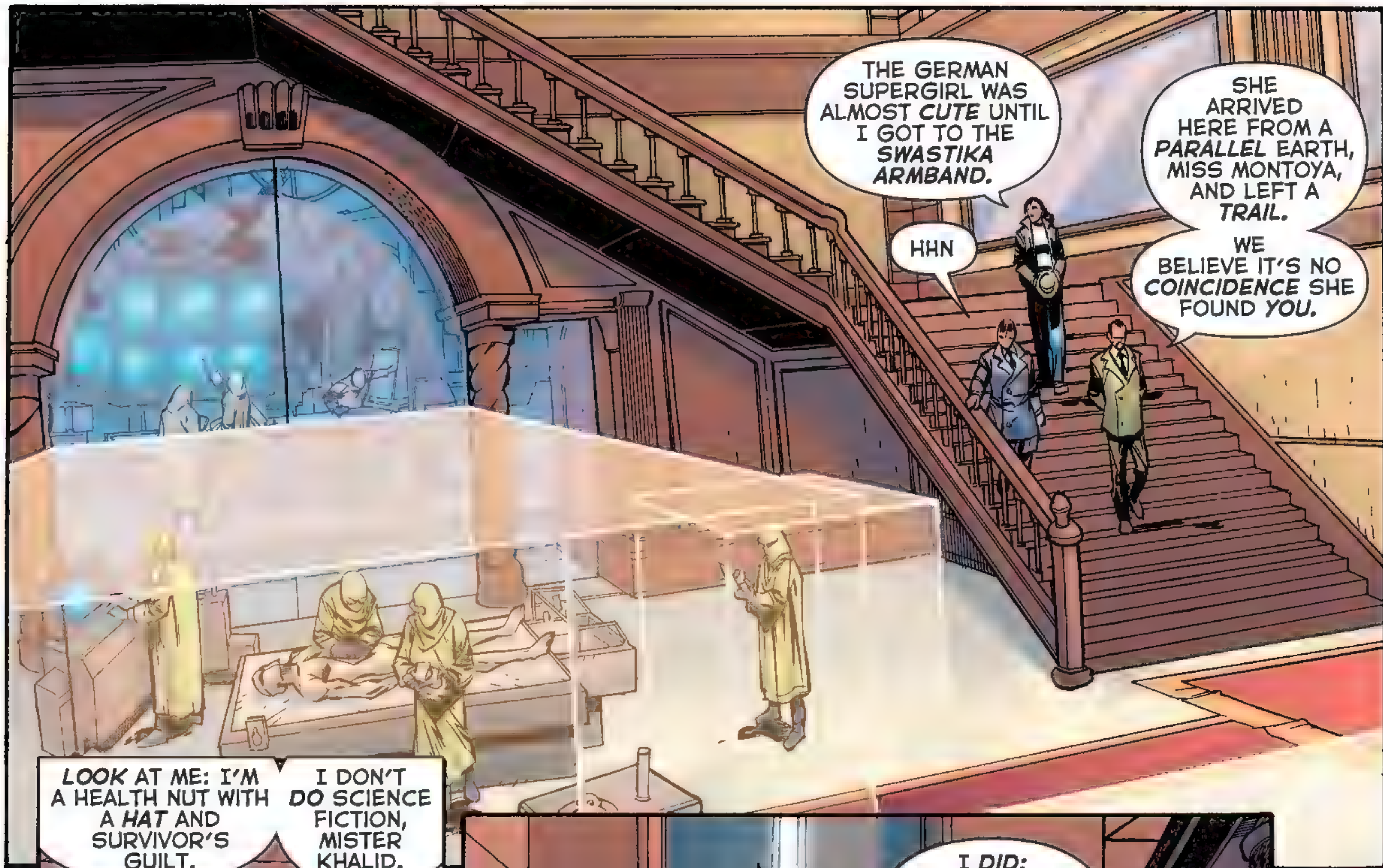
AND
WE KICK
HIS ASS.

YOUR RING,
JORDAN.



CLEARED OF
ALL CHARGES.

YOU
HAVE 24
HOURS TO
SAVE THE
UNIVERSE,
LANTERN
JORDAN.



THE GERMAN
SUPERGIRL WAS
ALMOST CUTE UNTIL
I GOT TO THE
SWASTIKA
ARMAND.

SHE
ARRIVED
HERE FROM A
PARALLEL EARTH,
MISS MONTOYA,
AND LEFT A
TRAIL.

WE
BELIEVE IT'S NO
COINCIDENCE SHE
FOUND YOU.

HHN

LOOK AT ME: I'M
A HEALTH NUT WITH
A HAT AND
SURVIVOR'S
GUILT.

I DON'T
DO SCIENCE
FICTION,
MISTER
KHALID.

TRY
SCIENCE
FACT.

I SUGGEST
YOU READ UP ON
M-THEORY, HIGHER
DIMENSIONAL
BRANES AND
THE BULK.



I DID:
SO THERE'S
SOMEWHERE OUT
THERE WHERE
CHARLIE NEVER
DIED AND I NEVER
BECAME THE
QUESTION?

GREAT.

HOW DID
I WIND UP
IN THIS
DUMP?

YOU'RE HERE
BECAUSE WE HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SHOW YOU.



...JEEZ.

...YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING
ME.

THESE ARE
PROTOTYPE
KIT SUPER-
SOLDIERS WITH
A SEVEN-DAY
LIFESPAN.

GENERATION-
ZERO BIOMACS.

CHECKMATE
WAS CREATED
AS THE LAST
MOVE IN THE
HUMAN GAME.

DO WE LOOK
LIKE THE SORT
OF PEOPLE WHO
WOULDN'T HAVE
A PLAN FOR
THE DAY THE
SUPERHEROES
FAILED TO
SAVE US?

NOW WE
WANT YOU
TO BE PART
OF IT,
RENEE.





...THE CULT OF SIMYAN
AND MOKKARI HAS
ACHIEVED *MIRACLES*
IN YOUR NAME, O
DARKSEID!

WE PREPARED
AN *EARTH BODY*
FIT FOR THE
GOD ABOVE
GODS!

DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM!

IT WAS I,
GLORIOUS GODFREY,
WHO SPREAD THE
WORD OF *ANTI-LIFE*...

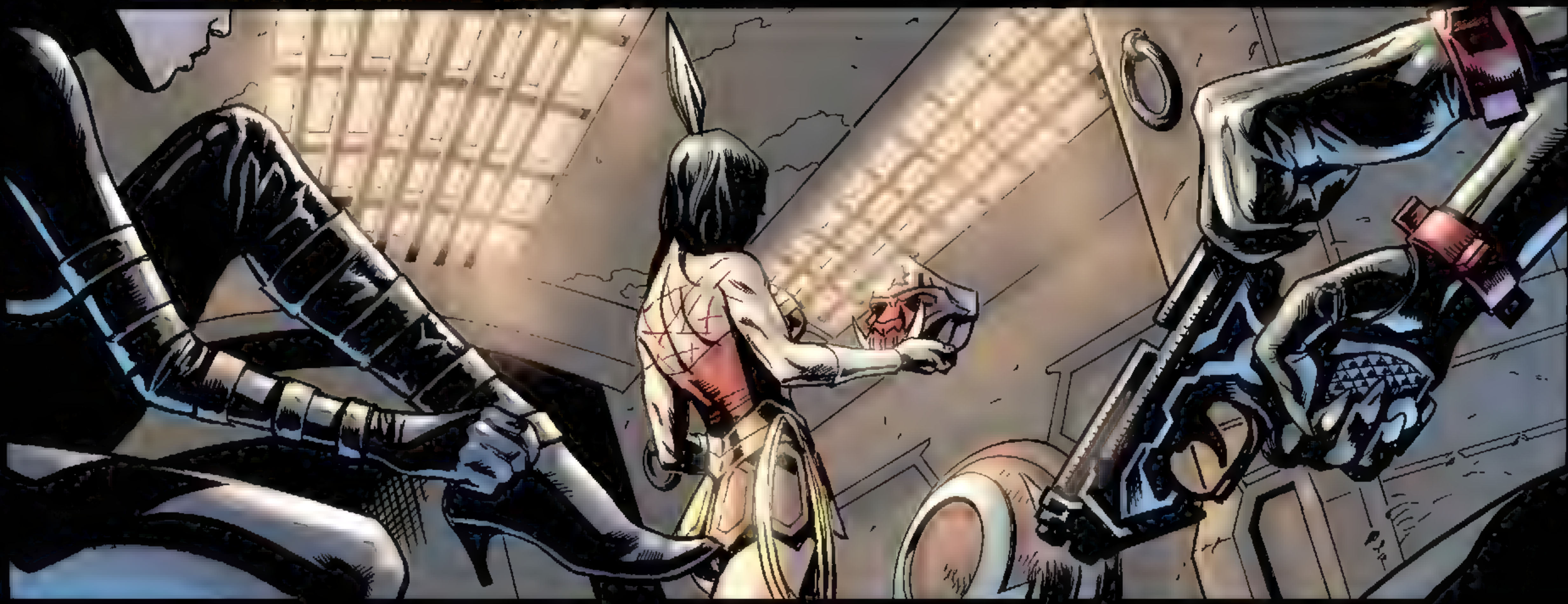


DON'T
LET ME DIE,
GREAT
ONE.

...POPULATIONS
ROBBED OF THEIR
OWN VOLITION, TO BECOME
HANDS OF DARKSEID, EYES
OF DARKSEID, LIMBS OF
THE NIGHT-LORD!

HIS IS THE
IMPULSE, THEY
EXIST ONLY TO
CARRY OUT
THE DEED.

≈Auurff≈







YOU HAVE
THOUGHTLESSLY
GUNNED DOWN
A GLOBAL
MEGASTAR!

HOW WILL
YOU EXPLAIN
YOURSELVES
TO THIS MAN'S
FANS?

PUT THE
GUNS DOWN,
YOU MEN!

HOW
DID YOU GET
THROUGH CASTLE
DEFENSES?

THIS
IS A SECURE
LOCATION!

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
DO IT..

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT I--



!



STOP!
EVERYBODY
CALM DOWN!

I'M
SORRY!

YOU SHOT
MISTER
MIRACLE!

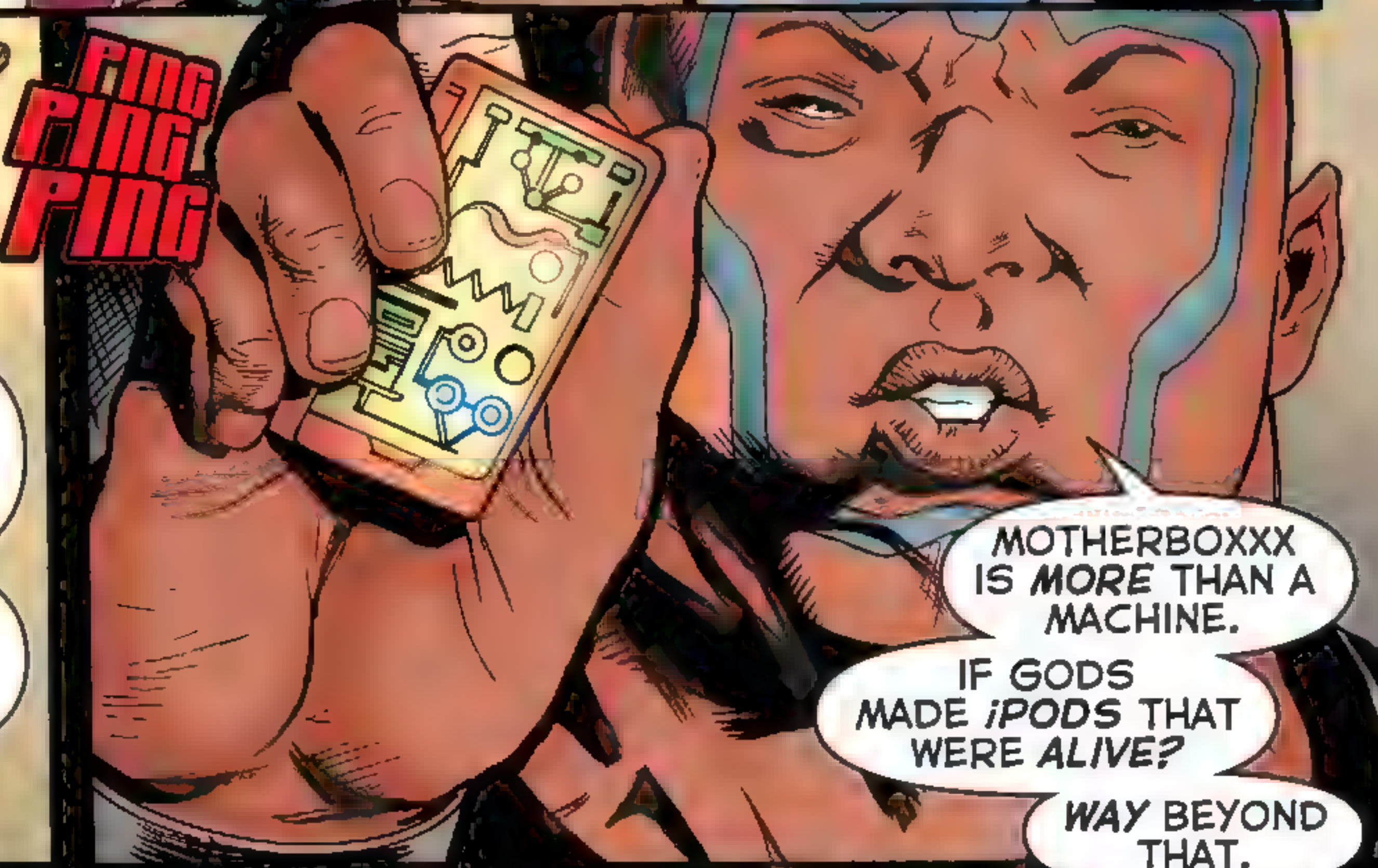
WE CAME
THROUGH
SPACE AND
TIME AND
EVERYTHING
TO SAVE
YOU.



A
DOCTOR'S
ON HIS WAY
FOR YOUR
FRIEND.

HOW
DOES THAT...
THING KNOW
I'M HERE?

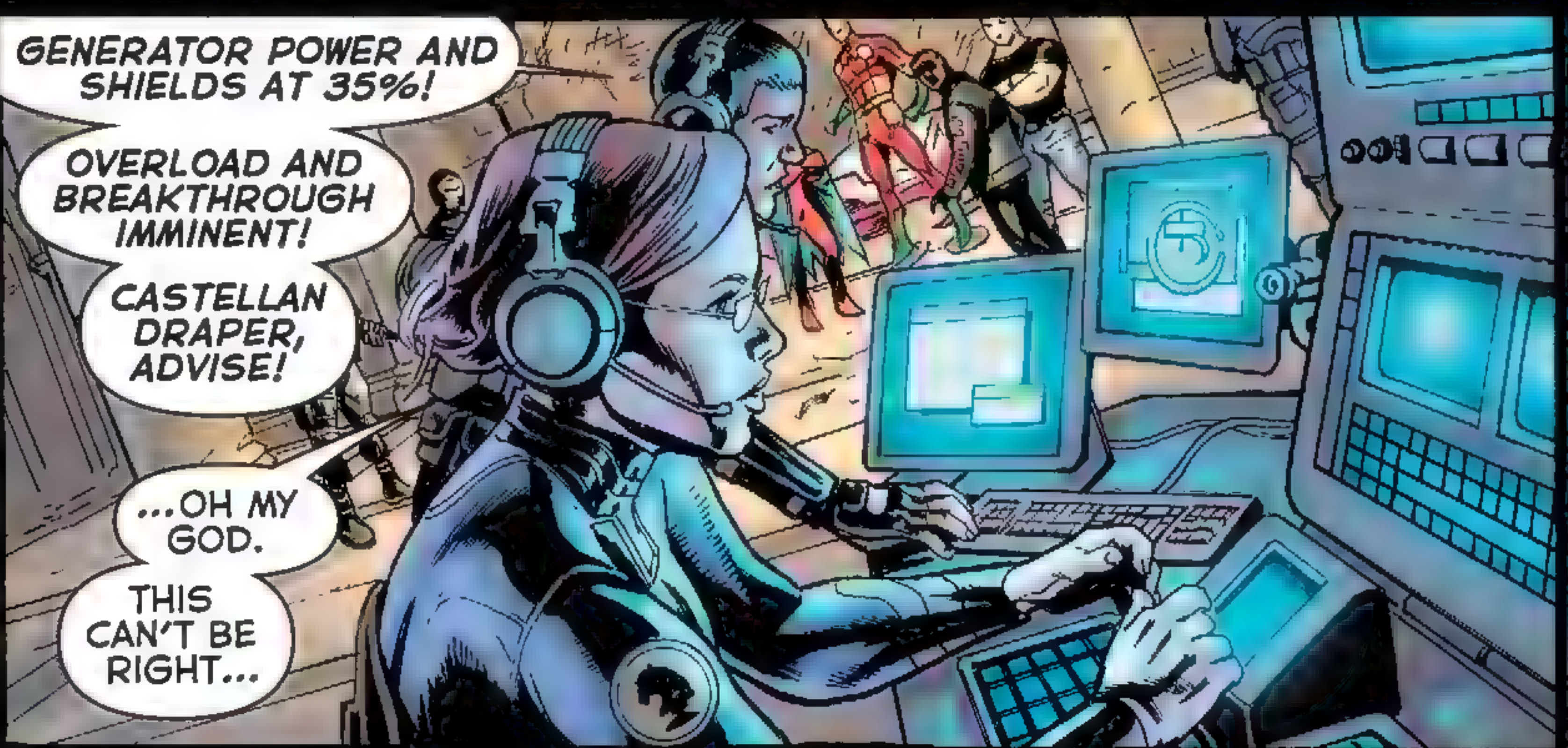
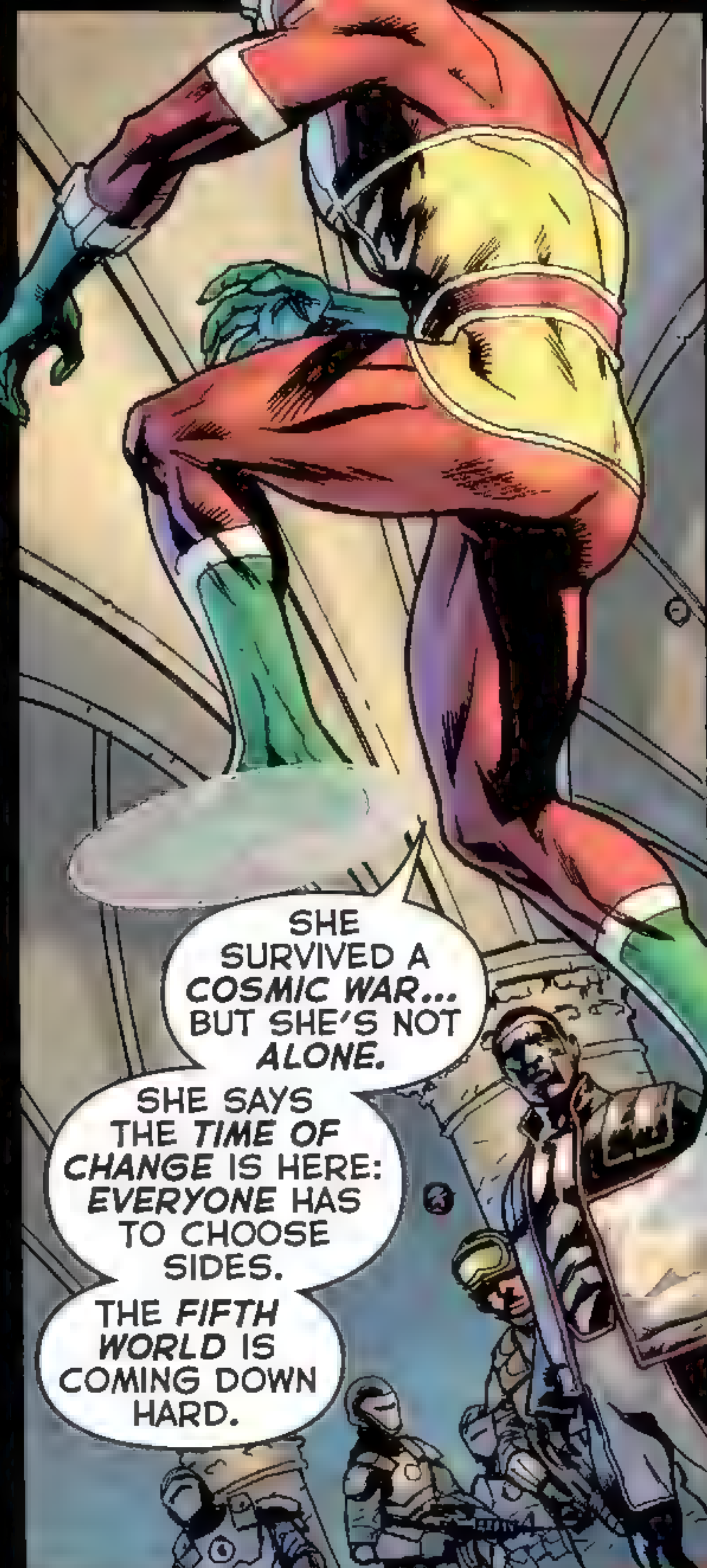
I'M INVISIBLE
TO MACHINES.



MOTHERBOXXX
IS MORE THAN A
MACHINE.

IF GODS
MADE IPODS THAT
WERE ALIVE?

WAY BEYOND
THAT.





WE'RE TRYING TO GIVE OUR PEOPLE IN **BLUDHAVEN** A CHANCE TO CUT THIS THING OUT AT THE ROOT.

BUT YOU HEARD THEM: OUR SHIELDS WILL FAIL IN 15 MINUTES.

I'M AFRAID YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME FOR HUMANITY'S LAST STAND.

NO. NO. NO.

CAN SOMEBODY CHECK THIS BEFORE WE LOSE GENERATOR POWER?

RADAR SAYS THE SWISS BORDER JUST... JUST GOT CLOSER...

LISTEN TO HER.

THE WAR BROKE TIME AND SPACE.



A FALLEN DEVIL-GOD IS DRAGGING US DOWN WITH HIM INTO A DEEP, DARK HOLE IN **TIME**, WITH NO LIGHT, NO HOPE AND NO ESCAPE.

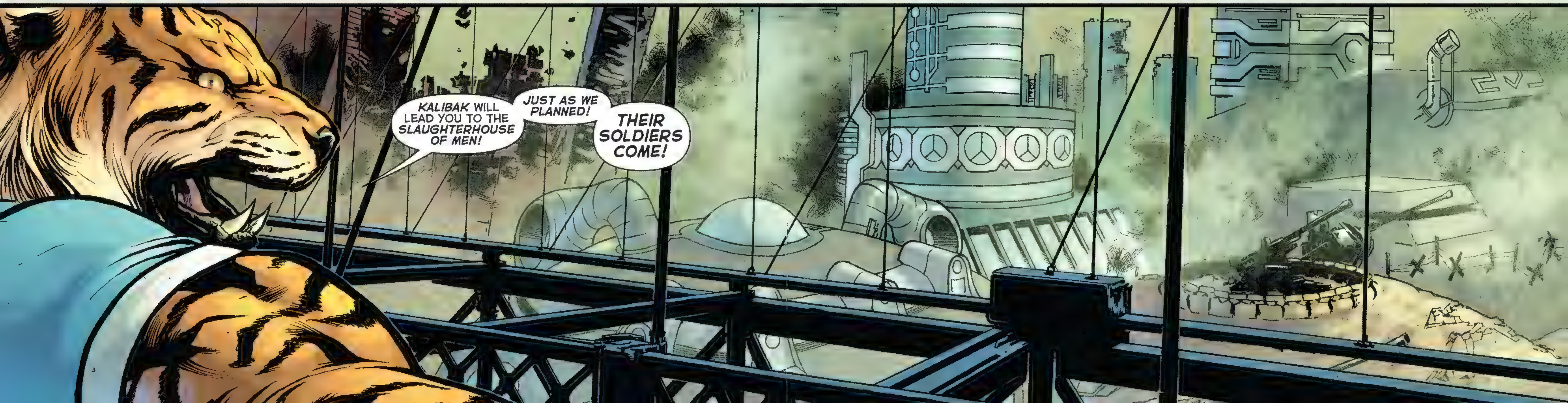
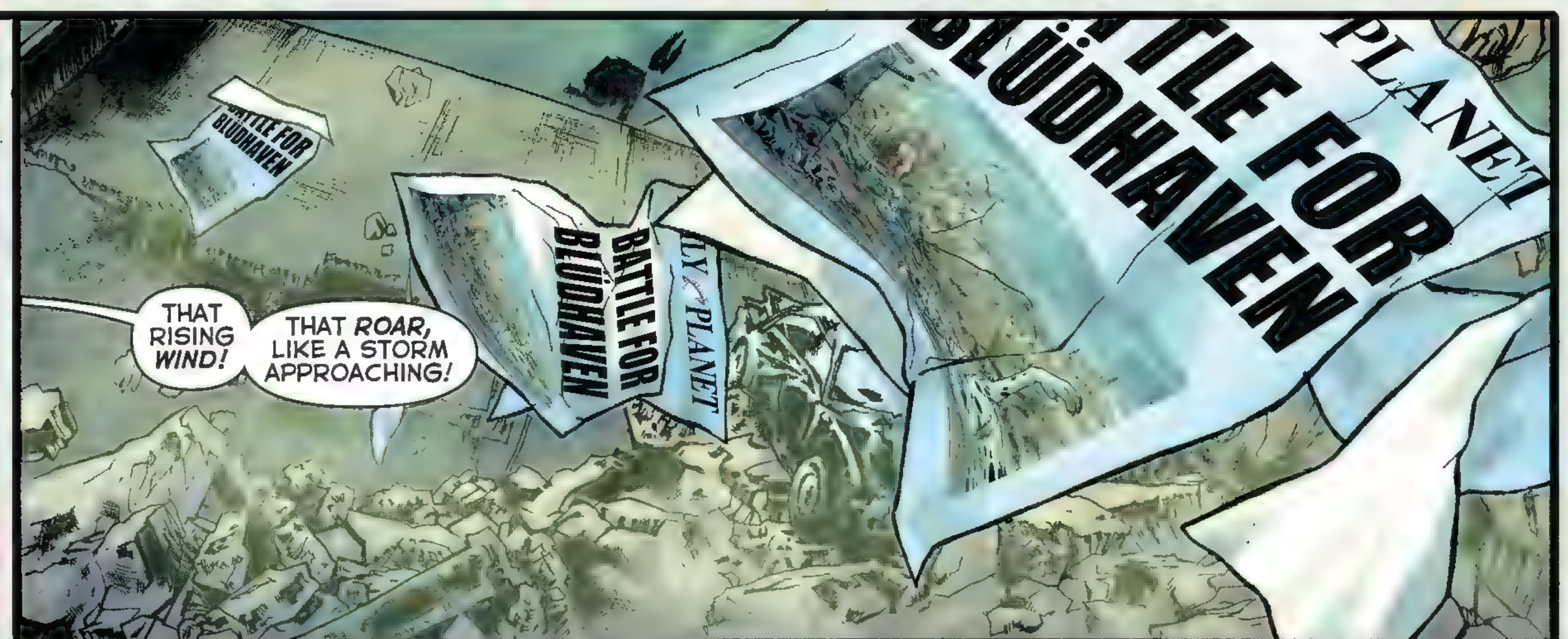
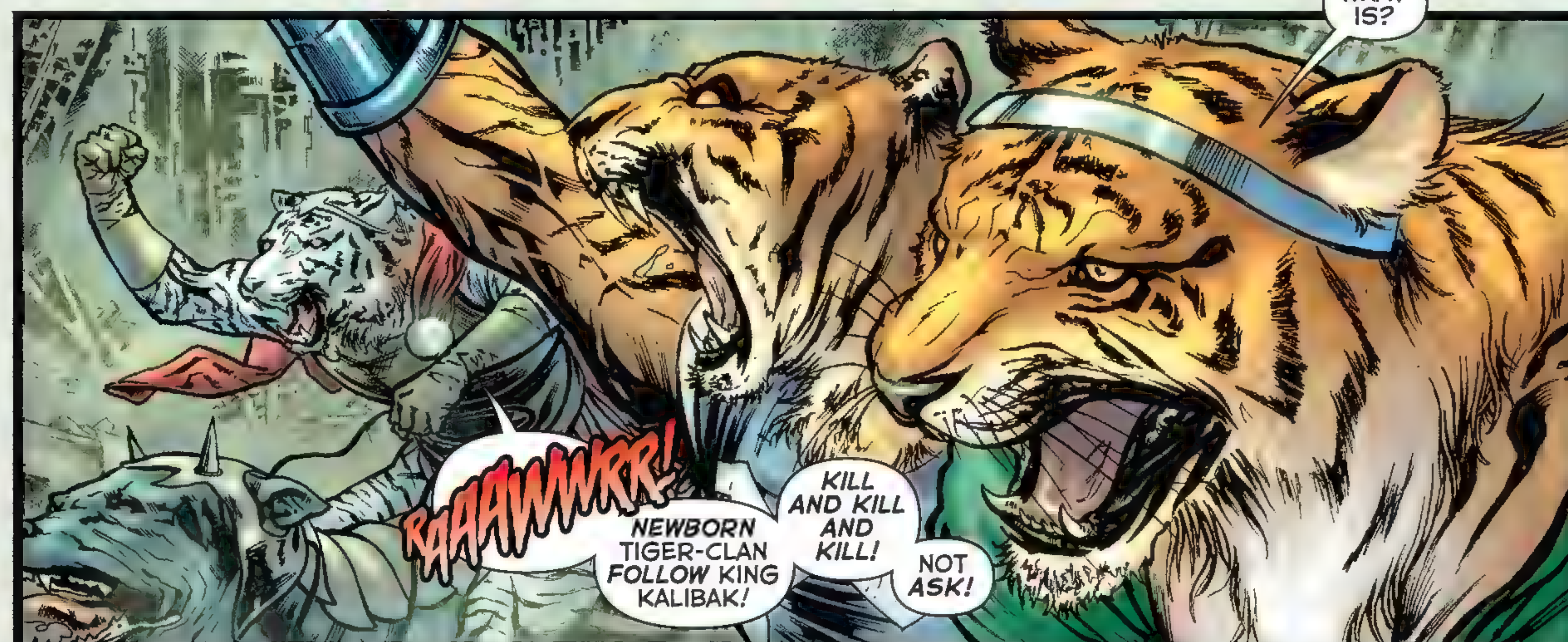


SHIELDS AT 14%

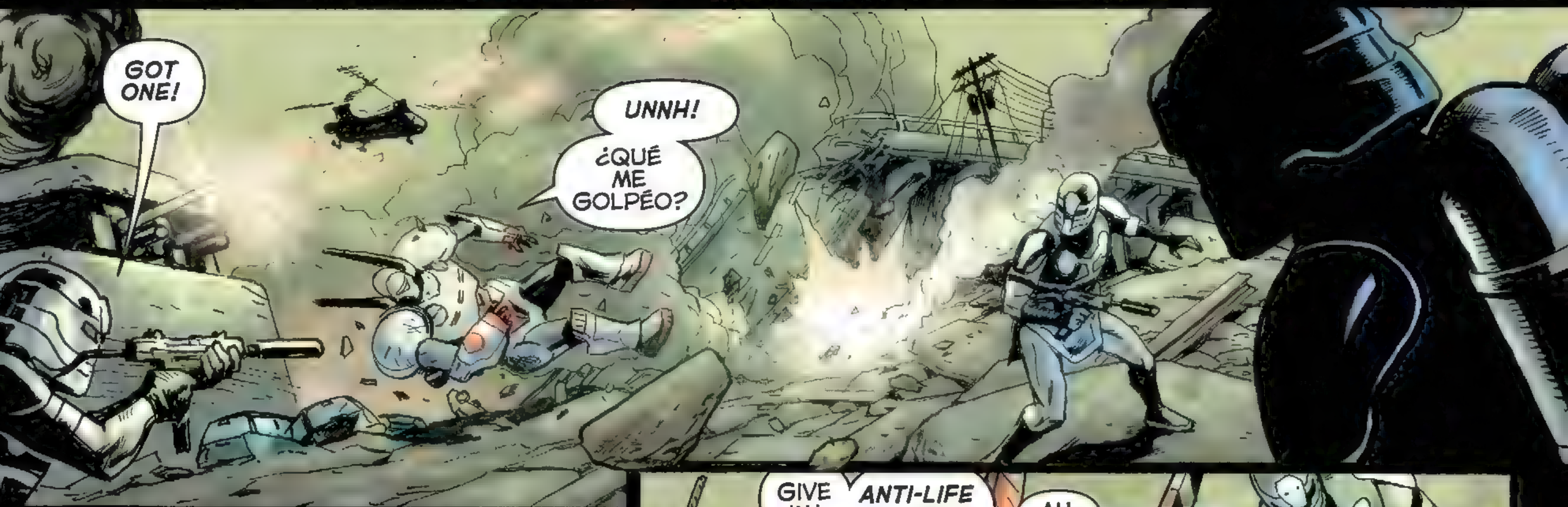
THAT'S WHERE I COME IN, MISTER TERRIFIC.

YOU SEE THIS PATTERN WE ALL PAINTED ON OUR FACES?

TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO DO THE SAME...

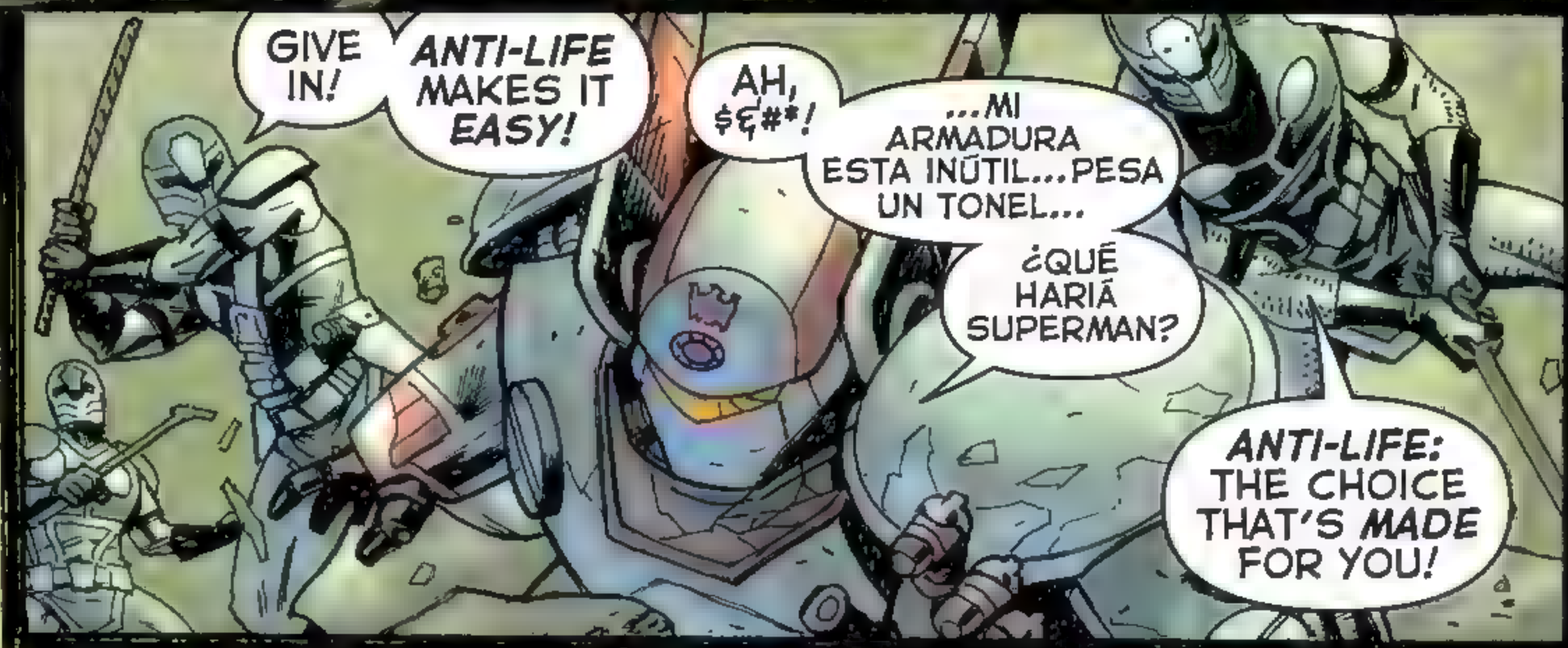






GOT ONE!

UNNH!
¿QUÉ ME GOLPEÓ?



GIVE IN!

ANTI-LIFE MAKES IT EASY!

AH, \$€#!

...MI ARMADURA ESTA INÚTIL... PESA UN TONEL...

¿QUÉ HARÍA SUPERMAN?

ANTI-LIFE: THE CHOICE THAT'S MADE FOR YOU!



"FAREWELL HAPPY FIELDS WHERE JOY FOREVER DWELLS!"

"HAIL HORRORS!"



GREEN LANTERN PROCEEDING TO COMMAND-D STATION!

WE'RE AIMING TO BUST THAT FORCE FIELD WIDE OPEN!



ON MY COMMAND.

IN DARKSEID'S NAME.

WAIT FOR THE LIGHTNING TO STRIKE...

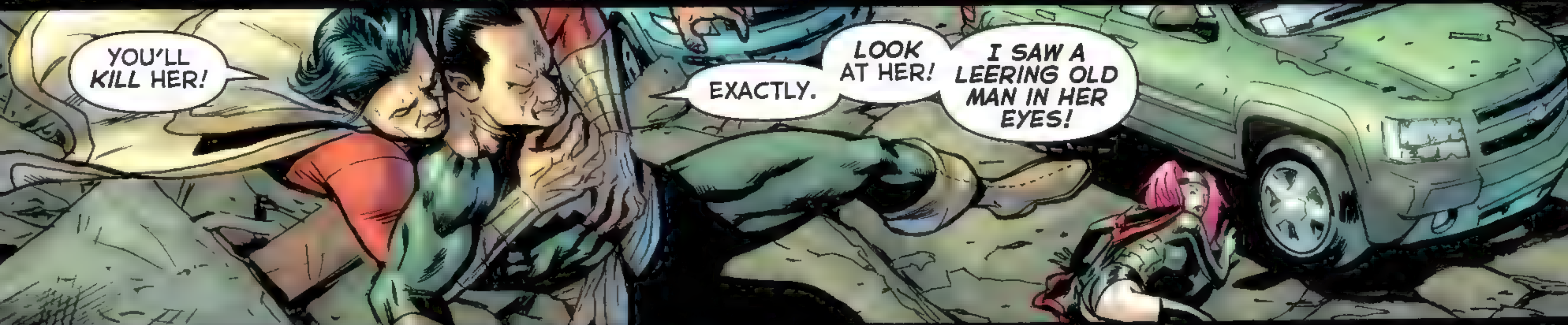




ADAM,
NO!

HIT ME
AGAIN.

MMMM.

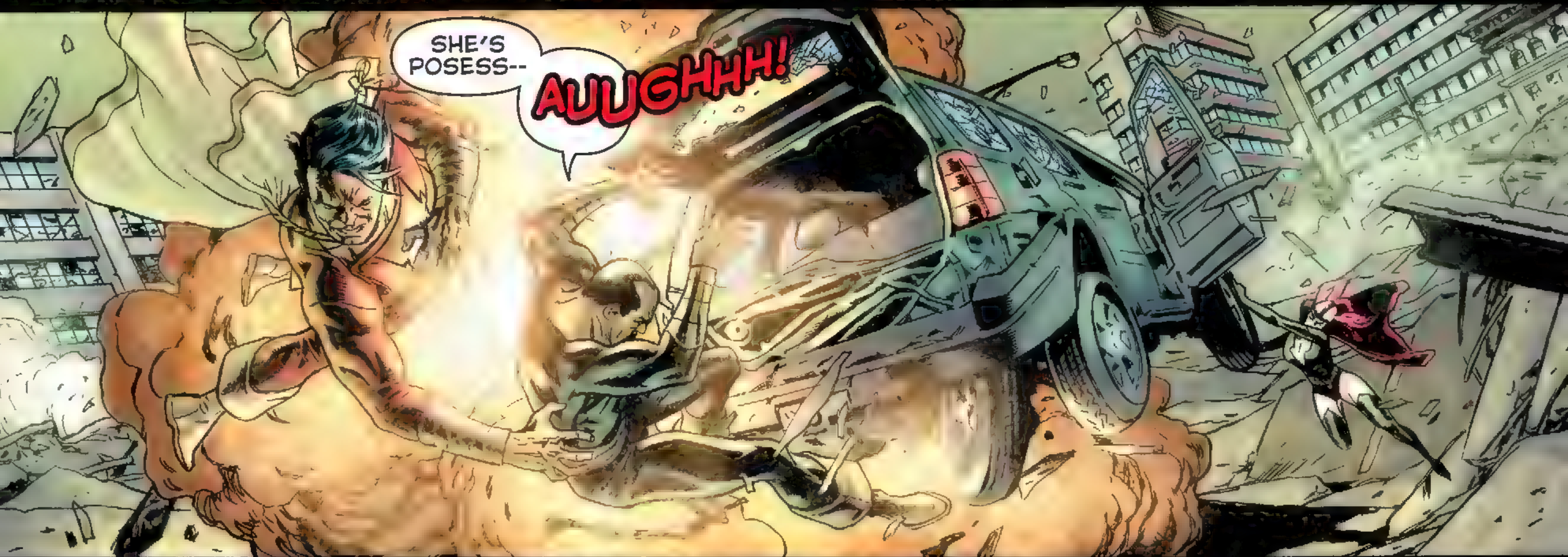


YOU'LL
KILL HER!

EXACTLY.

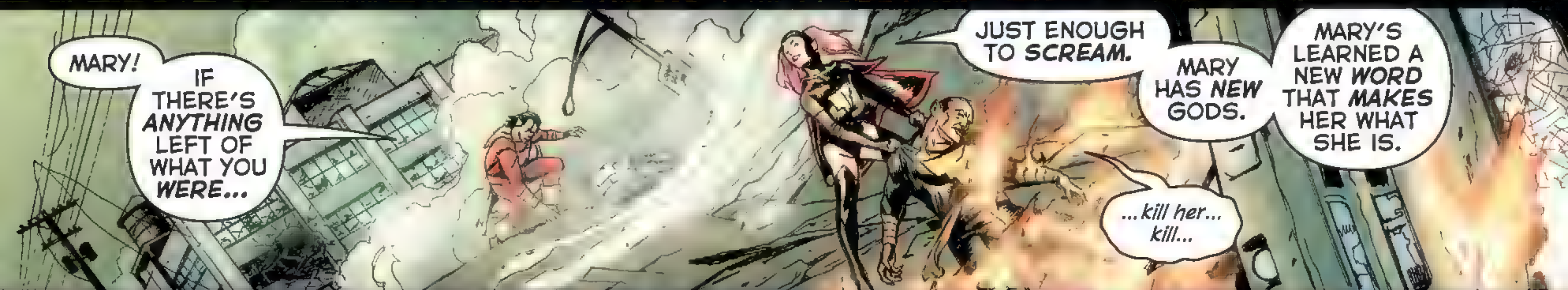
LOOK
AT HER!

I SAW A
LEERING OLD
MAN IN HER
EYES!



SHE'S
POSESS--

AUUGHHH!



MARY!

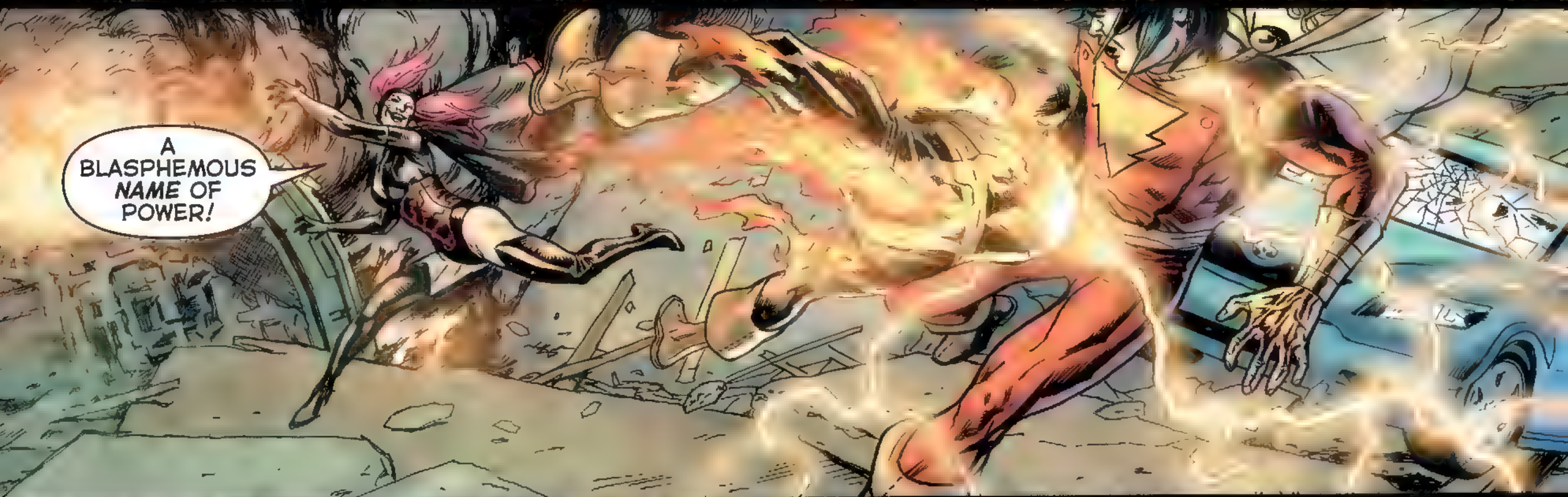
IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
LEFT OF
WHAT YOU
WERE...

JUST ENOUGH
TO SCREAM.

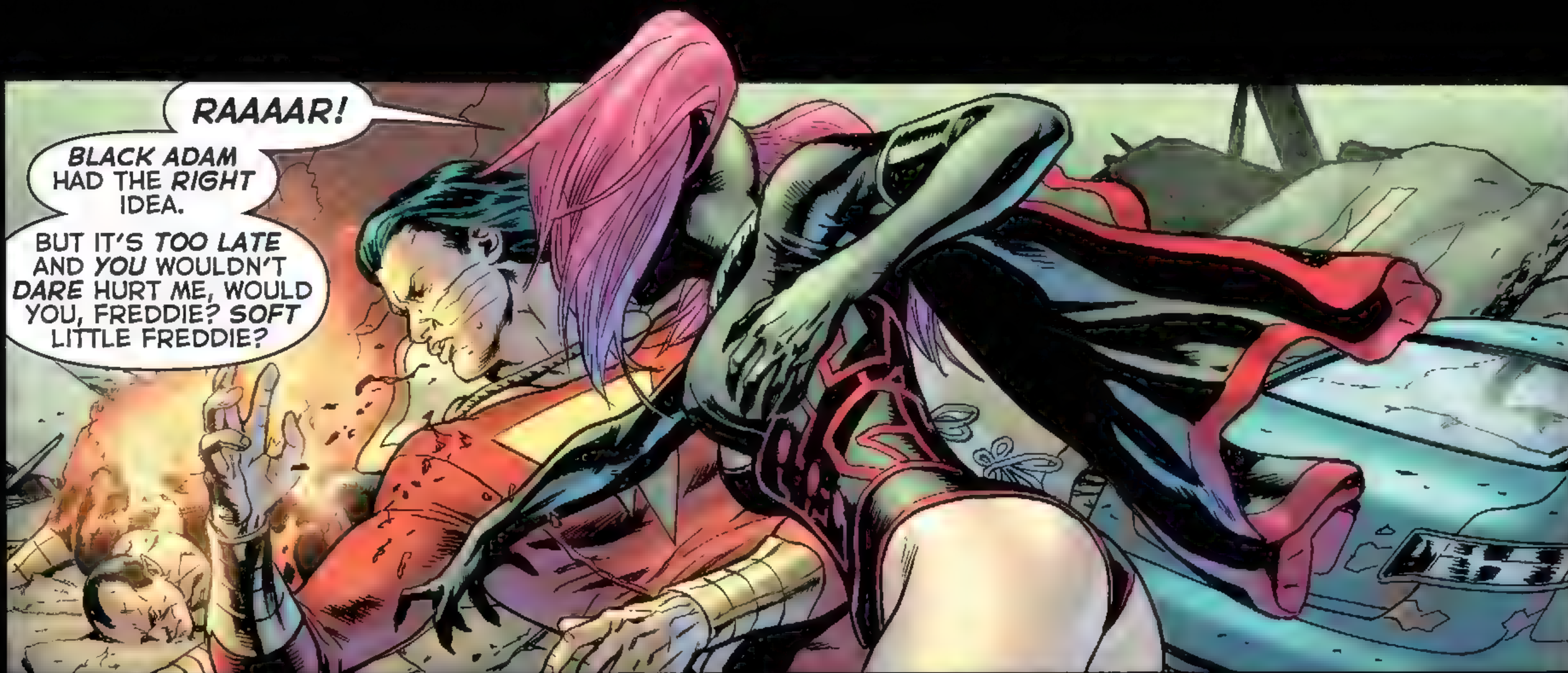
MARY
HAS NEW
GODS.

MARY'S
LEARNED A
NEW WORD
THAT MAKES
HER WHAT
SHE IS.

...kill her...
kill...



A
BLASPHEMOUS
NAME OF
POWER!



RAAAAAR!

**BLACK ADAM
HAD THE RIGHT
IDEA.**

**BUT IT'S TOO LATE
AND YOU WOULDN'T
DARE HURT ME, WOULD
YOU, FREDDIE? SOFT
LITTLE FREDDIE?**



**MMM,
YOU'RE
HOT.**

**WANNA
BE BAD?**

**WITH A
DIRTY MAGIC
WORD LIKE
MINE?**

**YOU'RE
NOT FACING
FREDDIE
THIS...**

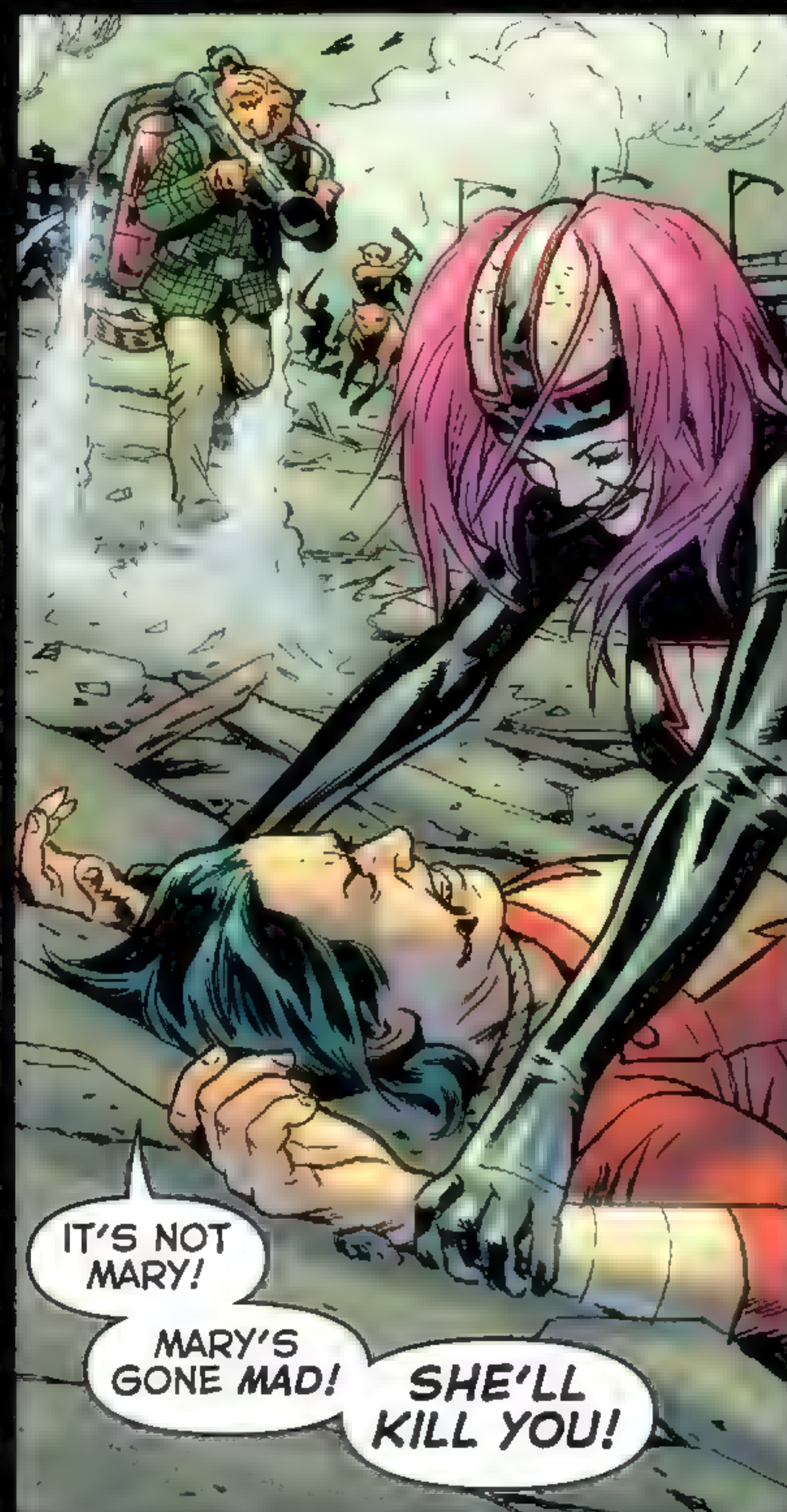


**MARY
MARVEL!**

**THIS
IS THE QUANTUM
BLUNDERBUSS
WE CONFISCATED
FROM PROFESSOR
SIVANA'S SON.**

**STEP ASIDE
AND SAY YOUR
WORD, OR
ELSE.**

**TAWNY,
GET AWAY!**



**IT'S NOT
MARY!**

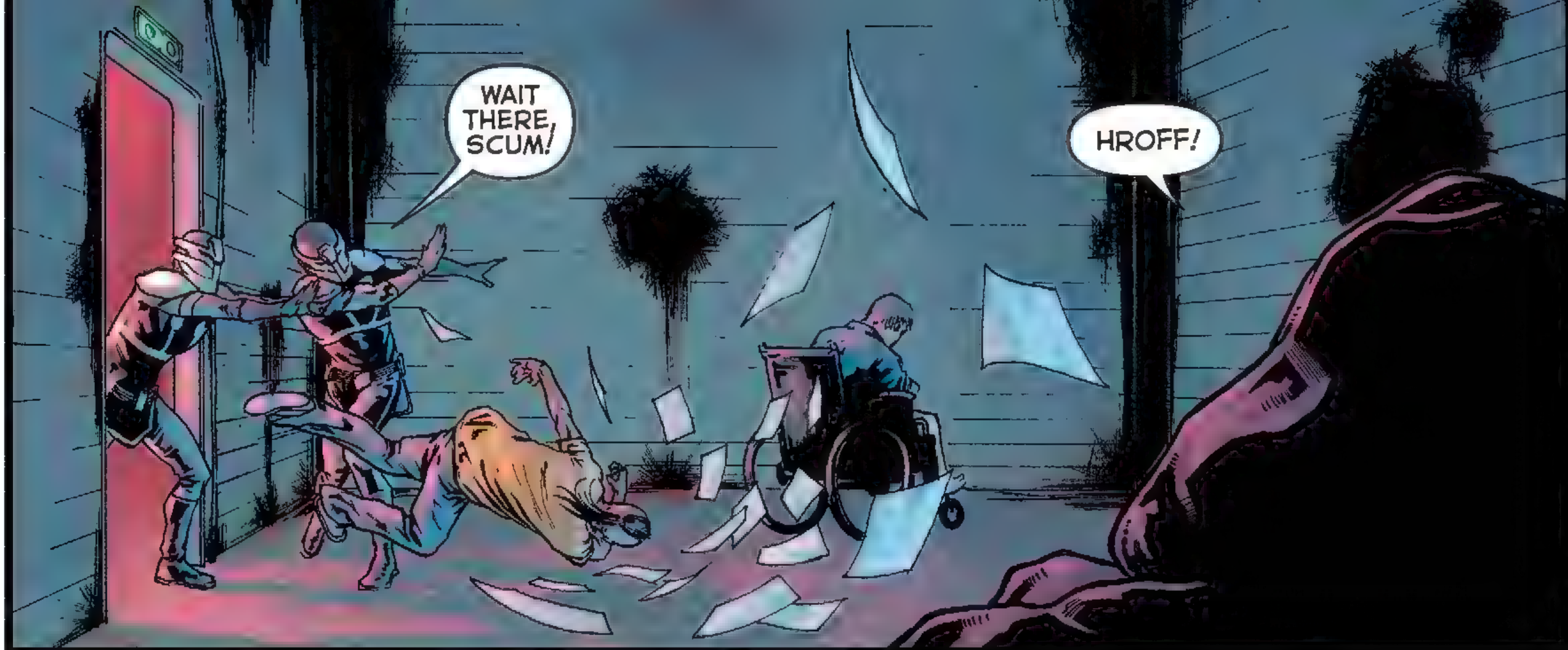
**MARY'S
GONE MAD!**

**SHE'LL
KILL YOU!**



**SHE WON'T
HAVE TO!**

OH!



WAIT
THERE,
SCUM!

HROFF!



THIS IS WHERE THEY BRING ALL THE
PEOPLE ANTI-LIFE CAN'T AFFECT: THE *CRAZY*
PEOPLE, THE ONES WIRED UP DIFFERENT...
BEFORE THEY *DISSECT* 'EM...

...HE
DON'T
TALK.

WHAT
MAKES YOU
SPECIAL?

SEE, AS...IT TURNS OUT,
THERE'S A MAGICAL *MINIMUM*
NUMBER OF MOVES YOU CAN SOLVE
A SCRAMBLED *RUBIK CUBE* WITH,
I BET YOU NEVER NEEDED
TO *KNOW* THAT.

THEY CALL
IT THE *NUMBER*
OF GOD.

NOBODY
EVER DID IT
IN LESS
THAN 18.



LIKE I GIVE
A %~\$%?

THERE ARE
NO GODS EXCEPT
DARKSEID.

IT SAYS
SO ON THE
BILLBOARDS.



WHICH PROVES
THE TIME FOR GODS
IS *DONE*, FOR
SURE.

THIS IS A TIME FOR
SOMETHING--*DIFFERENT*!
SOMETHING THAT WAS
UNFORESEEN...

SNOFF!

LEAVE
ME ALONE,
PLEASE...



BUT YOU
SUMMONED
HIM.

YOU
MADE THIS
MOMENT WITH
THE *POWER*
IN YOU.

ISN'T
THAT WHAT
YOUR KIND
DO?

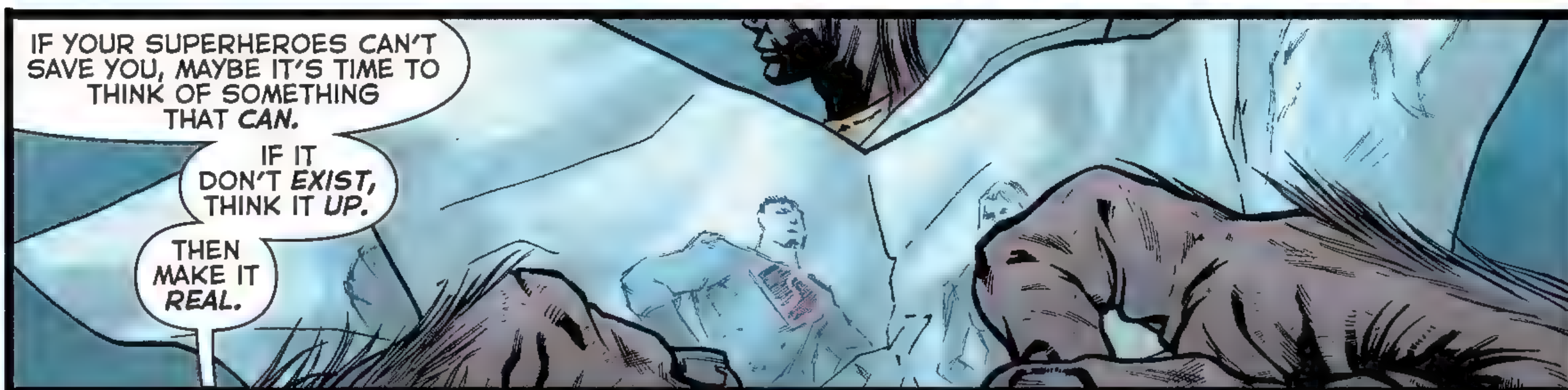


WHAT KIND?

DON'T YOU GET IT?

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE AND THE SUPERHEROES CAN'T SAVE US THIS TIME!

THEY'RE AS USELESS AS MY STUPID DRAWINGS.



IF YOUR SUPERHEROES CAN'T SAVE YOU, MAYBE IT'S TIME TO THINK OF SOMETHING THAT CAN.

IF IT DON'T EXIST, THINK IT UP.

THEN MAKE IT REAL.



WHAT'S THE POINT?

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE IN PAIN, FOR NO GOOD REASON...

THEY'RE COMING TO GET US RIGHT NOW!

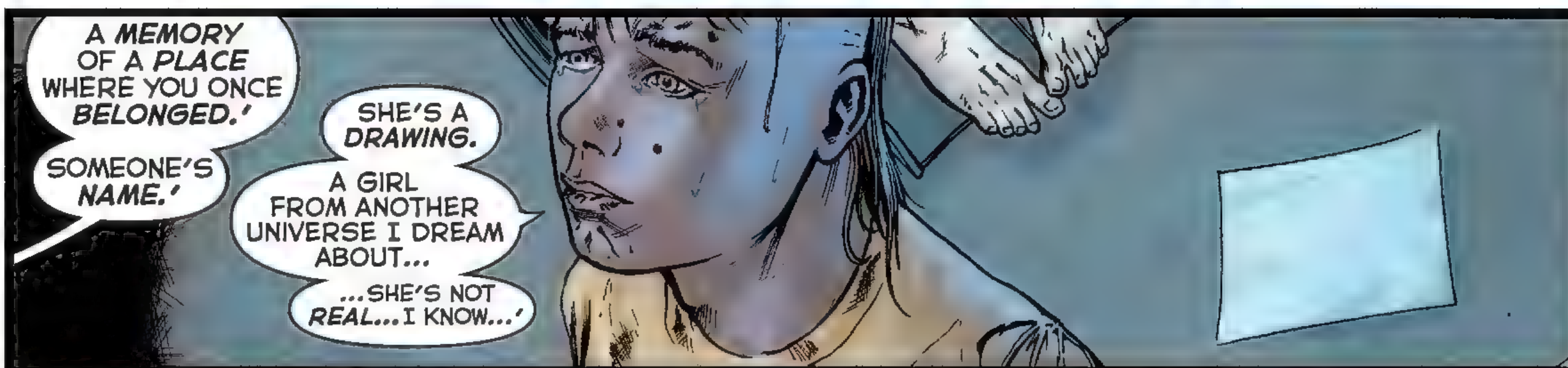
HPPH WHAT'S THIS ONE?



WAS THERE EVER A WORD YOU TRIED TO IMAGINE?

THE SORT OF WORD THAT COULD REMIND YOU WHO YOU TRULY WERE INSIDE?

MAYBE IT'S MORE THAN A WORD...IT'S A FACE, A SCENT, A VOICE.



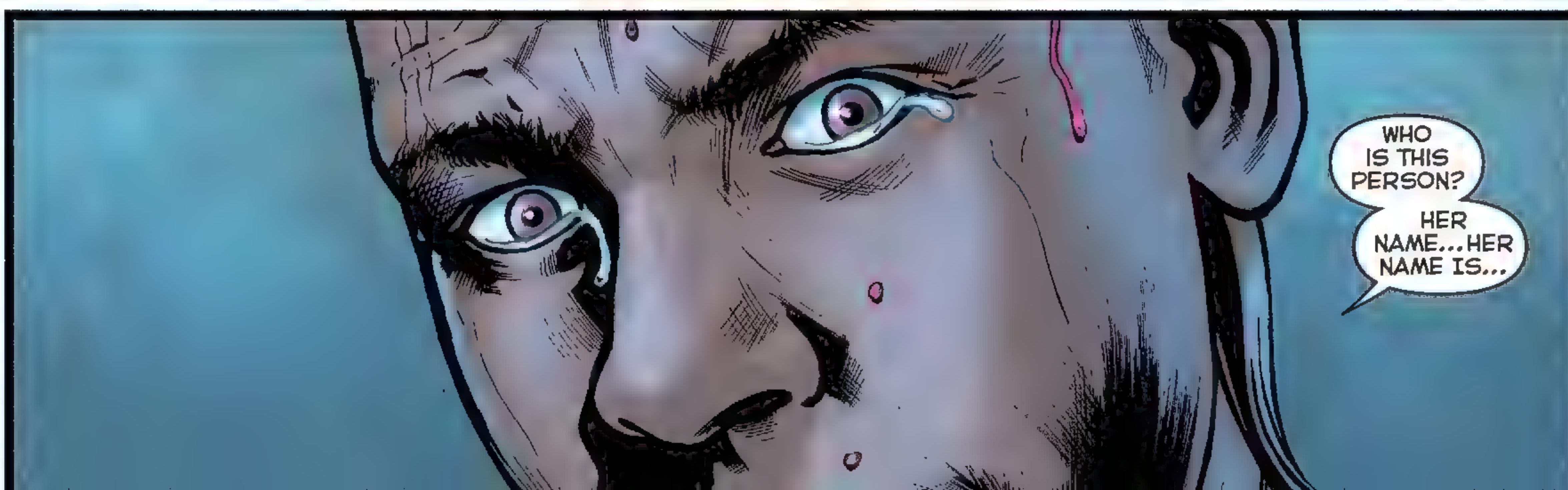
A MEMORY OF A PLACE WHERE YOU ONCE BELONGED.'

SOMEONE'S NAME.'

SHE'S A DRAWING.

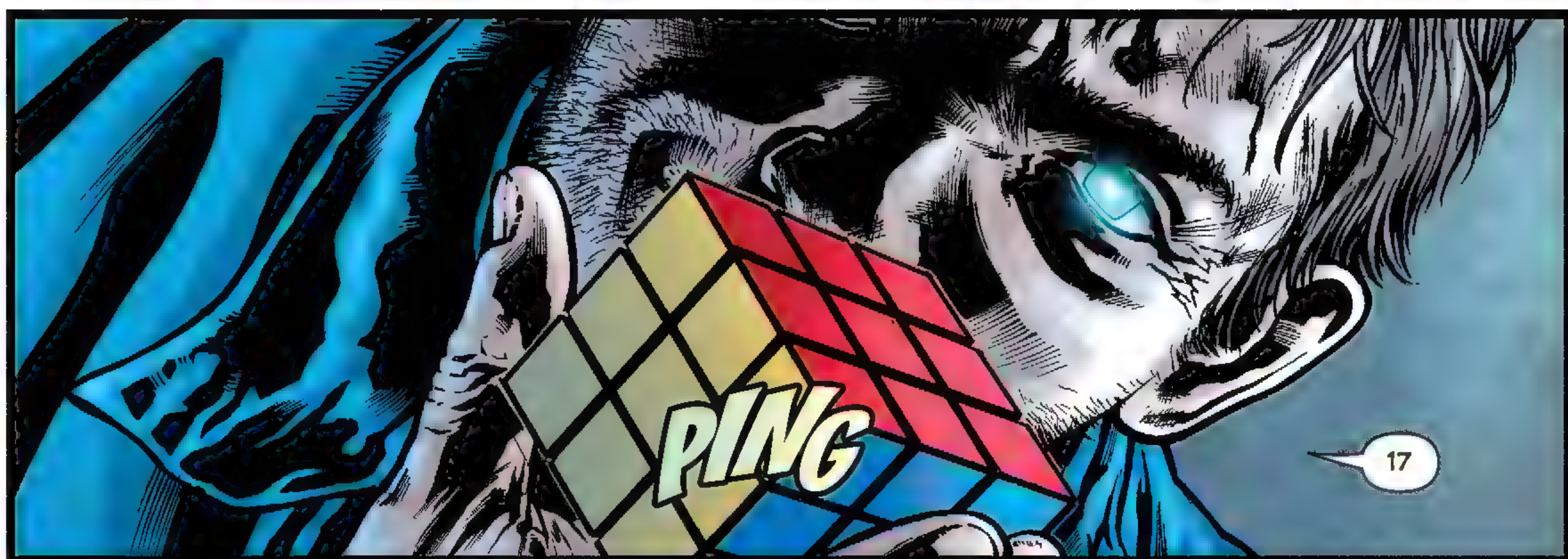
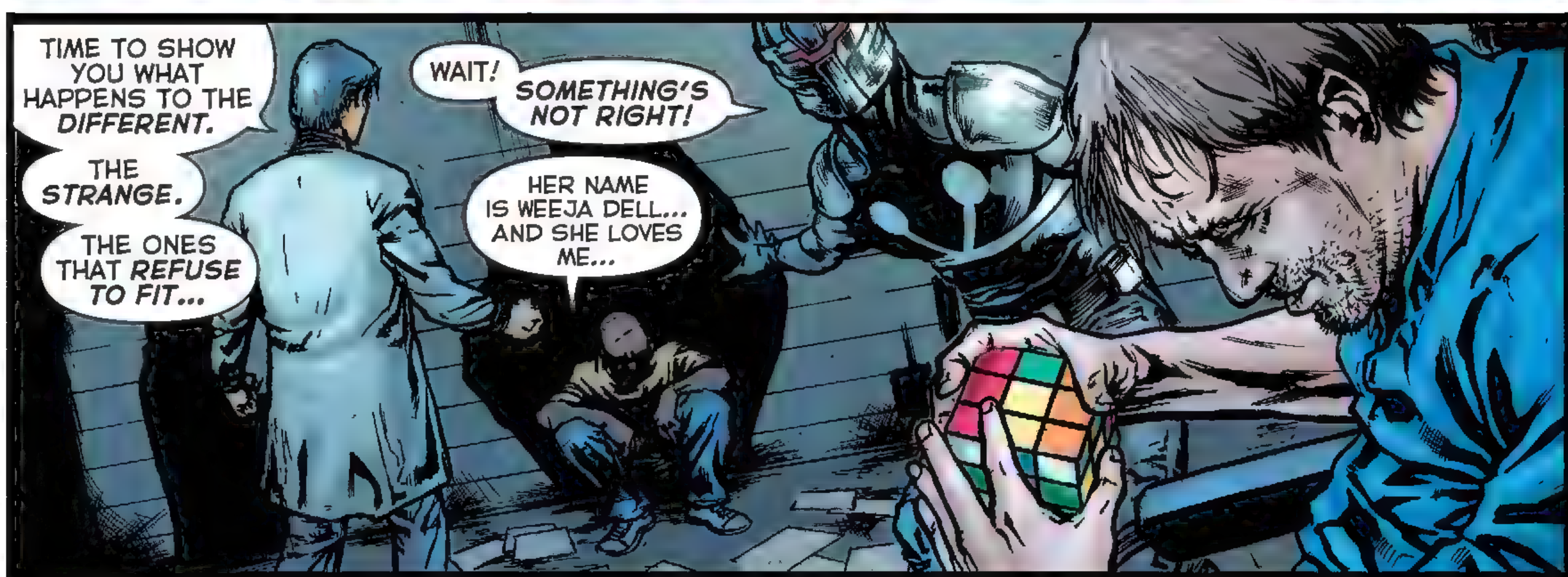
A GIRL FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE I DREAM ABOUT...

...SHE'S NOT REAL...I KNOW...'



WHO IS THIS PERSON?

HER NAME...HER NAME IS...





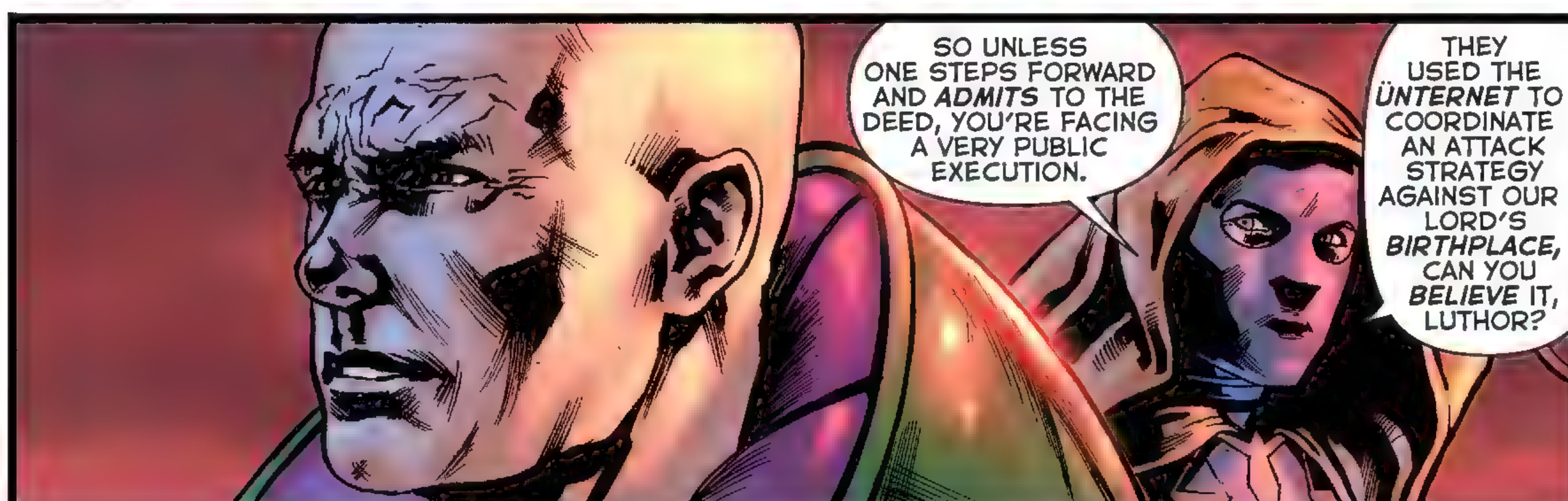
...AND HERE'S THE CRAWLING VERMIN WHO THOUGHT HE COULD BETRAY US TO THE RESISTANCE.

LIBRA, I SWEAR I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

SOMEBODY ELSE... IT HAD TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE!

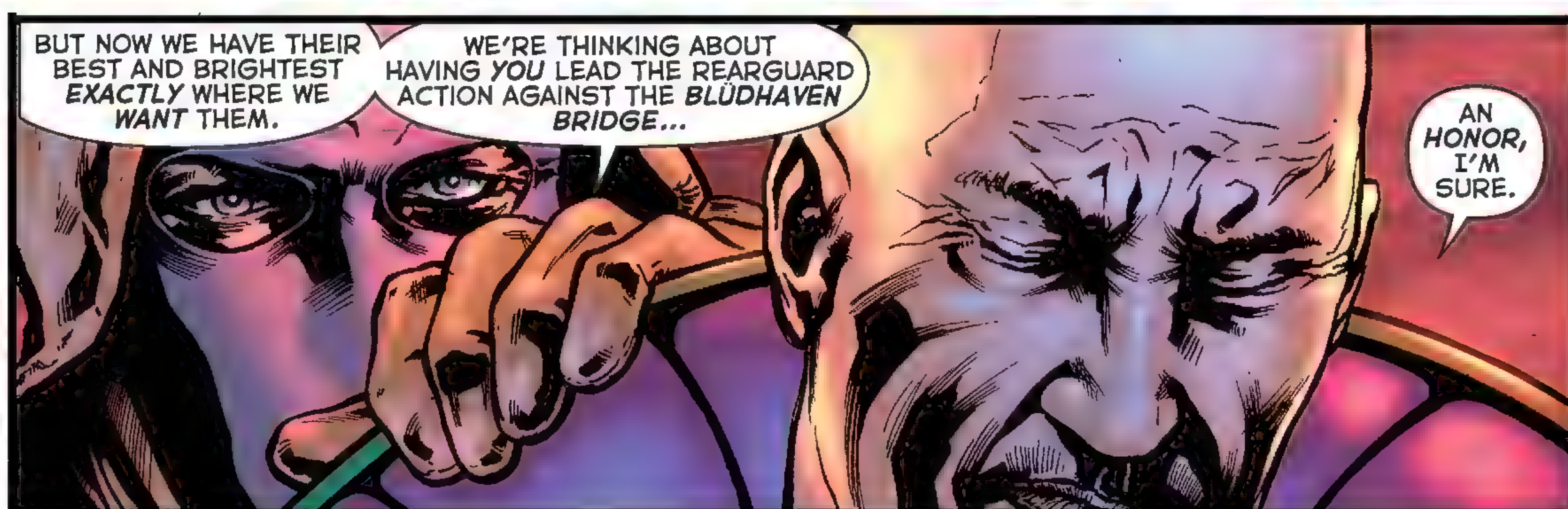


IT WOULD TAKE A SAVANT TO GET AROUND YOUR ENCRYPTIONS, CALCULATOR.



SO UNLESS ONE STEPS FORWARD AND ADMITS TO THE DEED, YOU'RE FACING A VERY PUBLIC EXECUTION.

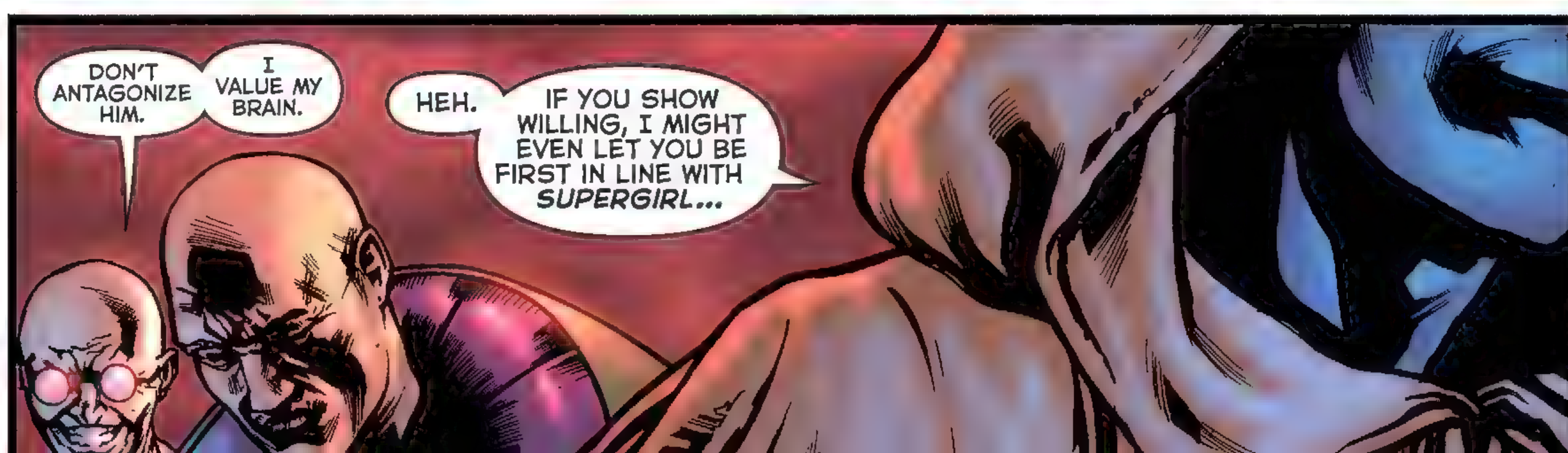
THEY USED THE ÜNTERNET TO COORDINATE AN ATTACK STRATEGY AGAINST OUR LORD'S BIRTHPLACE, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, LUTHOR?



BUT NOW WE HAVE THEIR BEST AND BRIGHTEST EXACTLY WHERE WE WANT THEM.

WE'RE THINKING ABOUT HAVING YOU LEAD THE REARGUARD ACTION AGAINST THE BLÜDHAVEN BRIDGE...

AN HONOR, I'M SURE.



DON'T ANTAGONIZE HIM.

I VALUE MY BRAIN.

HEH.

IF YOU SHOW WILLING, I MIGHT EVEN LET YOU BE FIRST IN LINE WITH SUPERGIRL...

...I THINK WE
NEED MORE FIREPOWER,
MISTER STEWART.

I JUST
CAN'T FIND A
WEAK SPOT!

IT'S RIGHT
ABOUT NOW, I WISH I
KNEW WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR **BIG**
COUSIN...

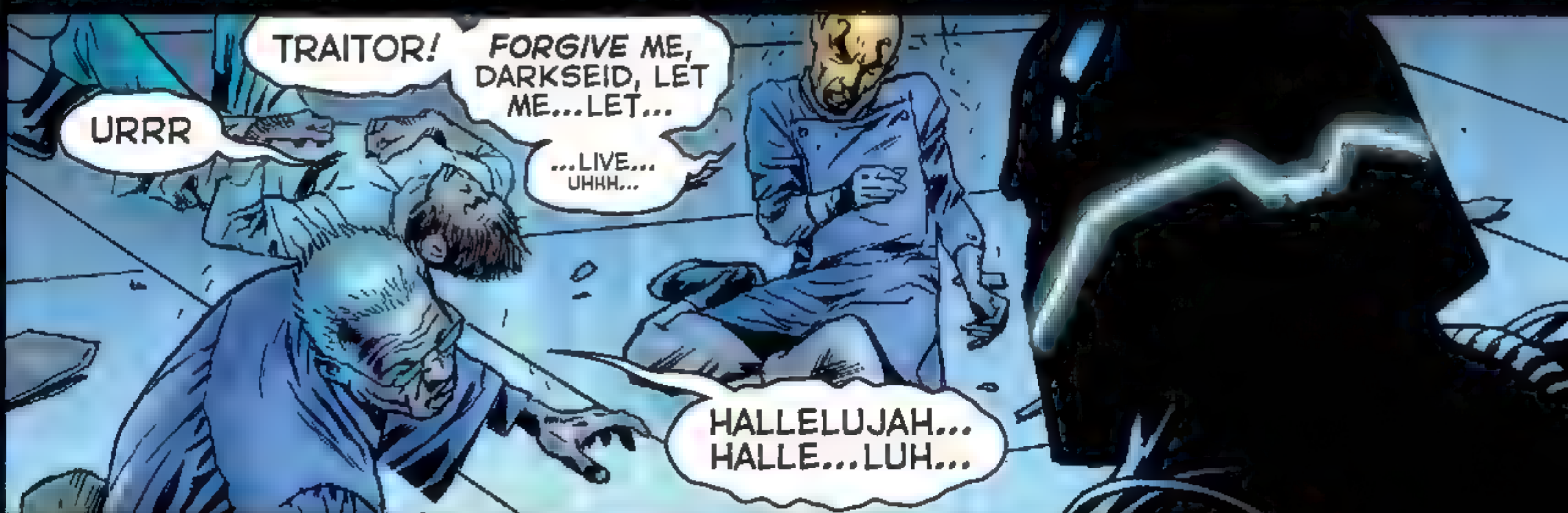
GODDAMMIT,
WHAT'S UP WITH
MY RING?

HASN'T
BEEN **RIGHT**
SINCE I DRAGGED
MYSELF OUT OF
THAT HOSPITAL
BED...



...MOKKARI
HAS FAILED YOU,
GREAT ONE!

THE BATMAN
PSYCHO-MERGE
KILLED THE CLONE
ARMY THESE
FOOLS TRIED TO
BUILD!



URRR

TRAITOR!

FORGIVE ME,
DARKSEID, LET
ME...LET...

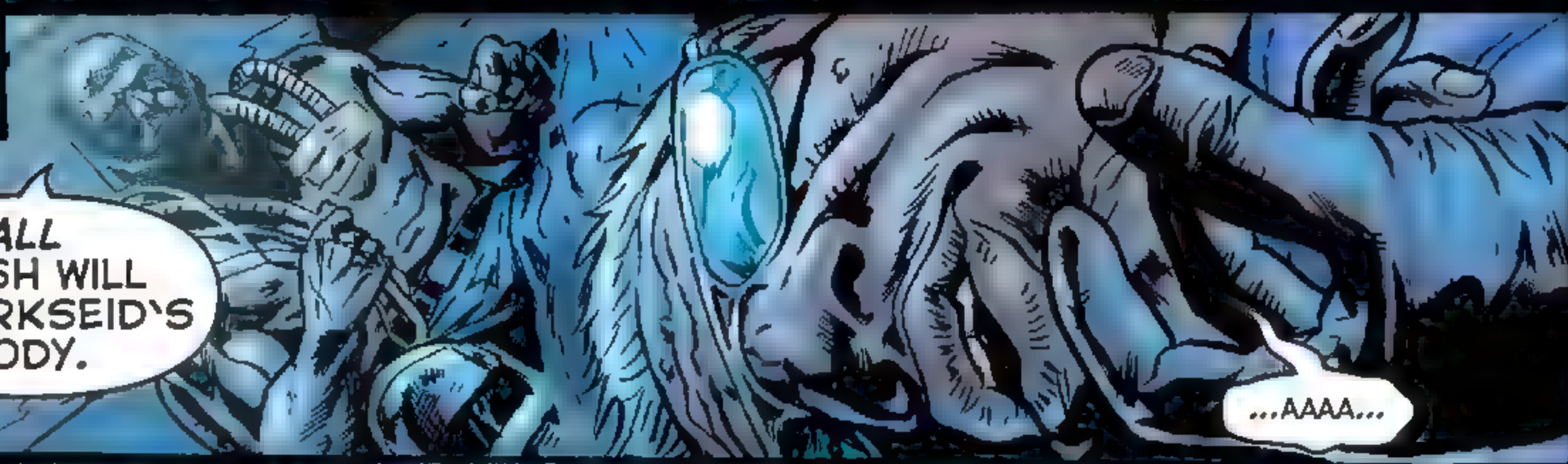
...LIVE...
UHHH...

HALLELUJAH...
HALLE...LUH...

IT IS
OVER.

NO LIVING
THING CAN RESIST
ME NOW.

ALL
FLESH WILL
BE DARKSEID'S
BODY.

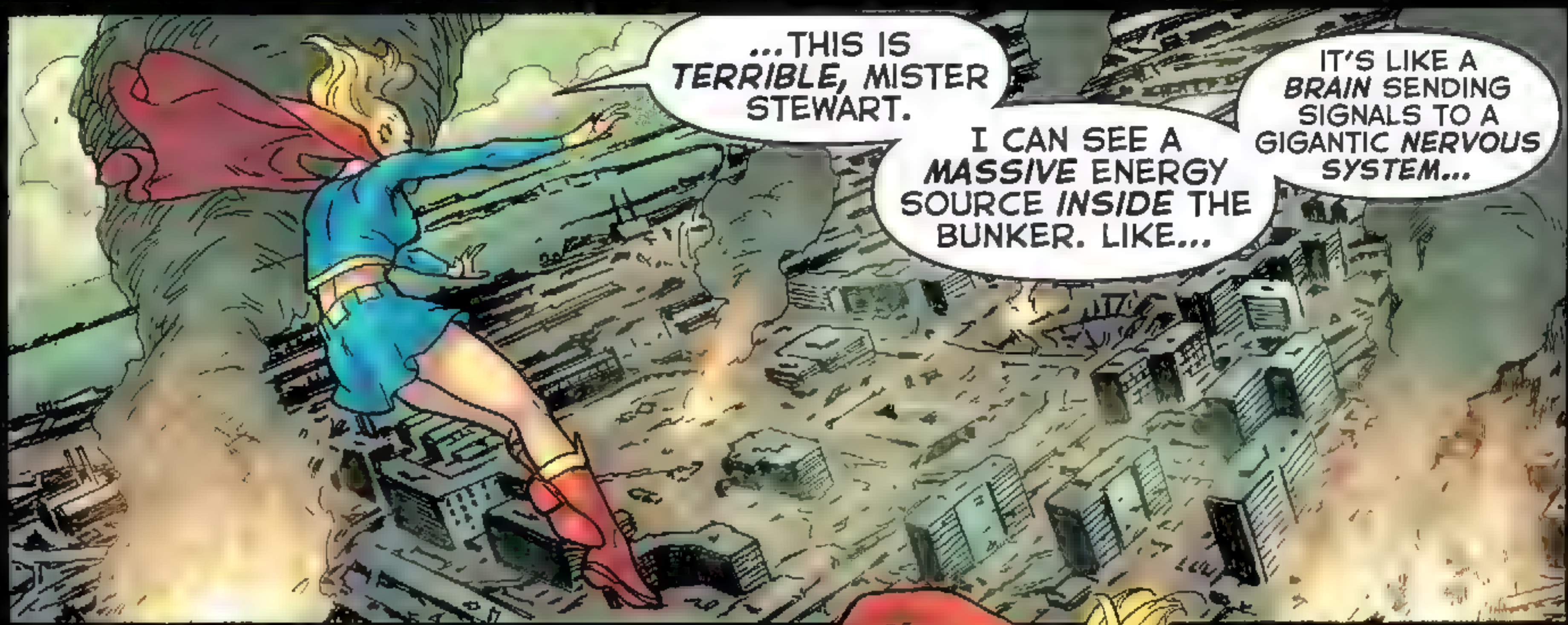


...AAAA...

THEY HAVE
ONLY EVER FACED
THE **IDEA** OF A GOD
BEFORE.

NOW IS GOD
MADE FLESH COME
AMONG THEM!

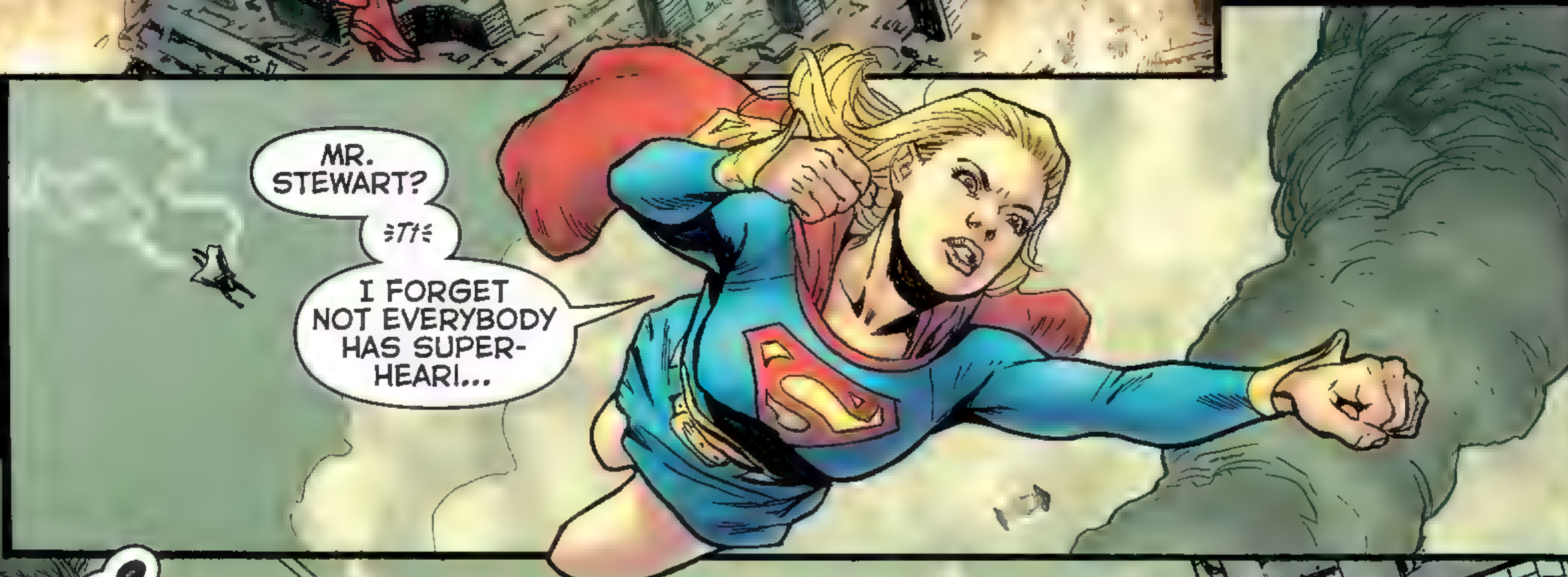
ALL IS ONE IN
DARKSEID!



...THIS IS
TERRIBLE, MISTER
STEWART.

I CAN SEE A
MASSIVE ENERGY
SOURCE INSIDE THE
BUNKER. LIKE...

IT'S LIKE A
BRAIN SENDING
SIGNALS TO A
GIGANTIC NERVOUS
SYSTEM...



MR.
STEWART?

77

I FORGET
NOT EVERYBODY
HAS SUPER-
HEAR!

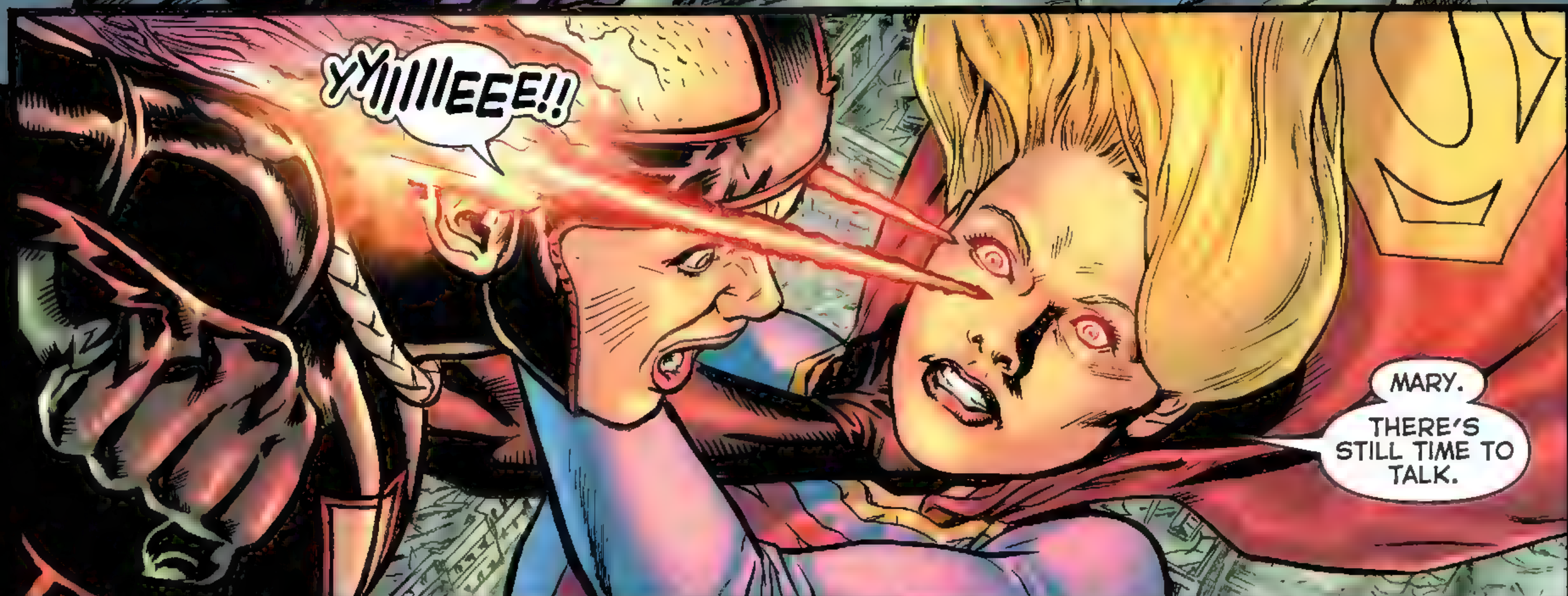


MY
GOD.

WHAT WAS
THAT?

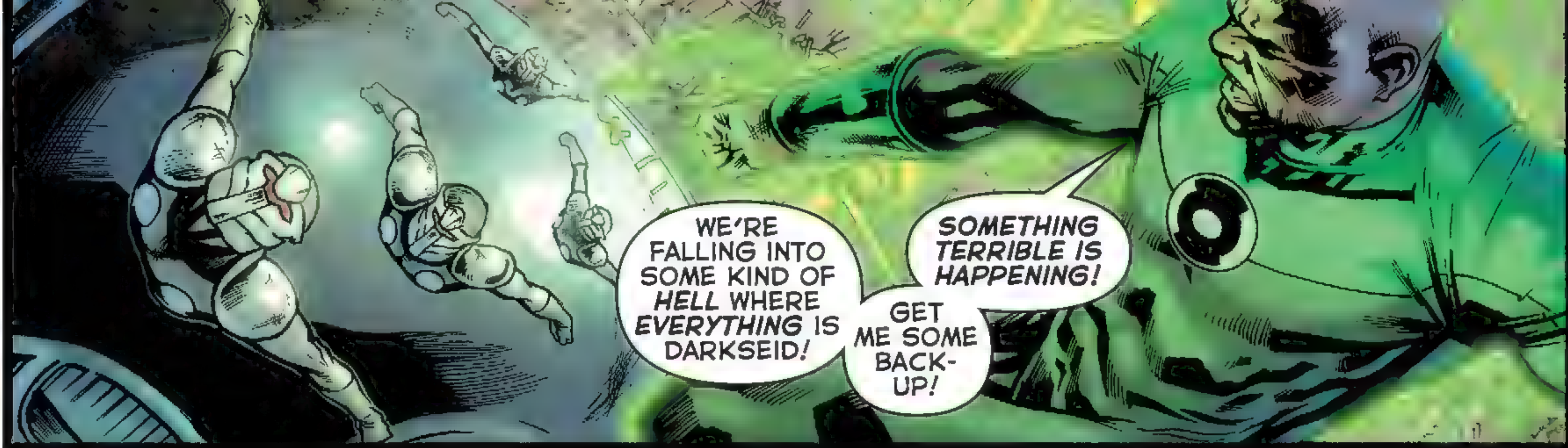
"DROPP'D
FROM THE
ZENITH LIKE
A FALLING
STAR..."

BEWARE.



YIIIIIEE!!

MARY.
THERE'S
STILL TIME TO
TALK.



WE'RE FALLING INTO SOME KIND OF HELL WHERE EVERYTHING IS DARKSEID!

SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING!

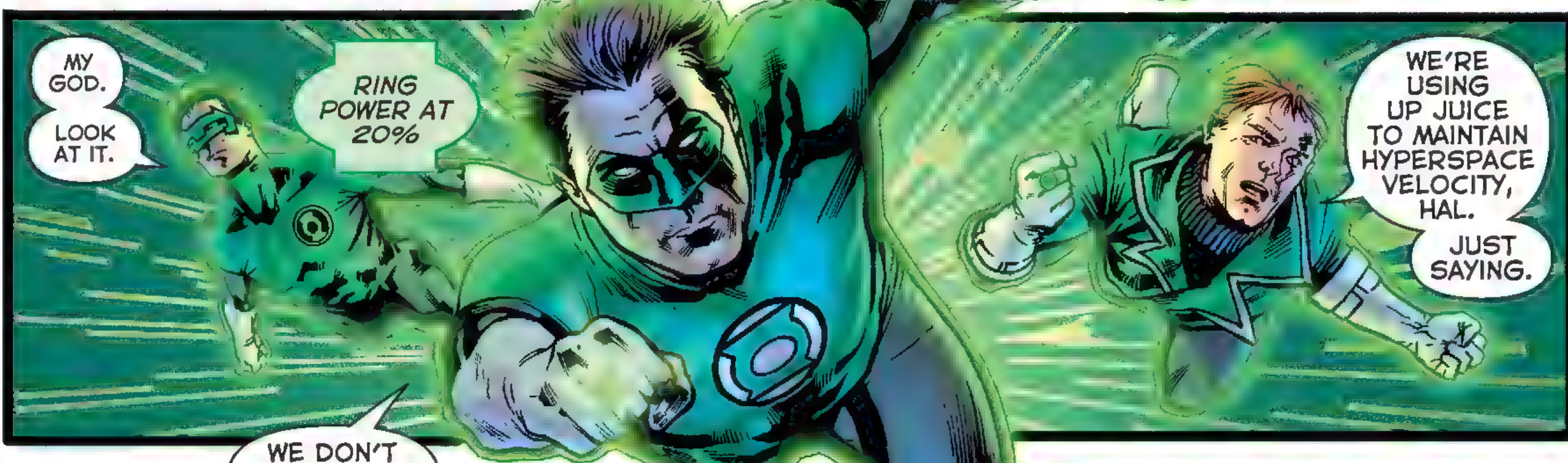
GET ME SOME BACK-UP!



YOU ARE NOT ALONE, LANTERN JOHN STEWART.

HELP IS ON ITS WAY.

HE CANNOT HEAR US.



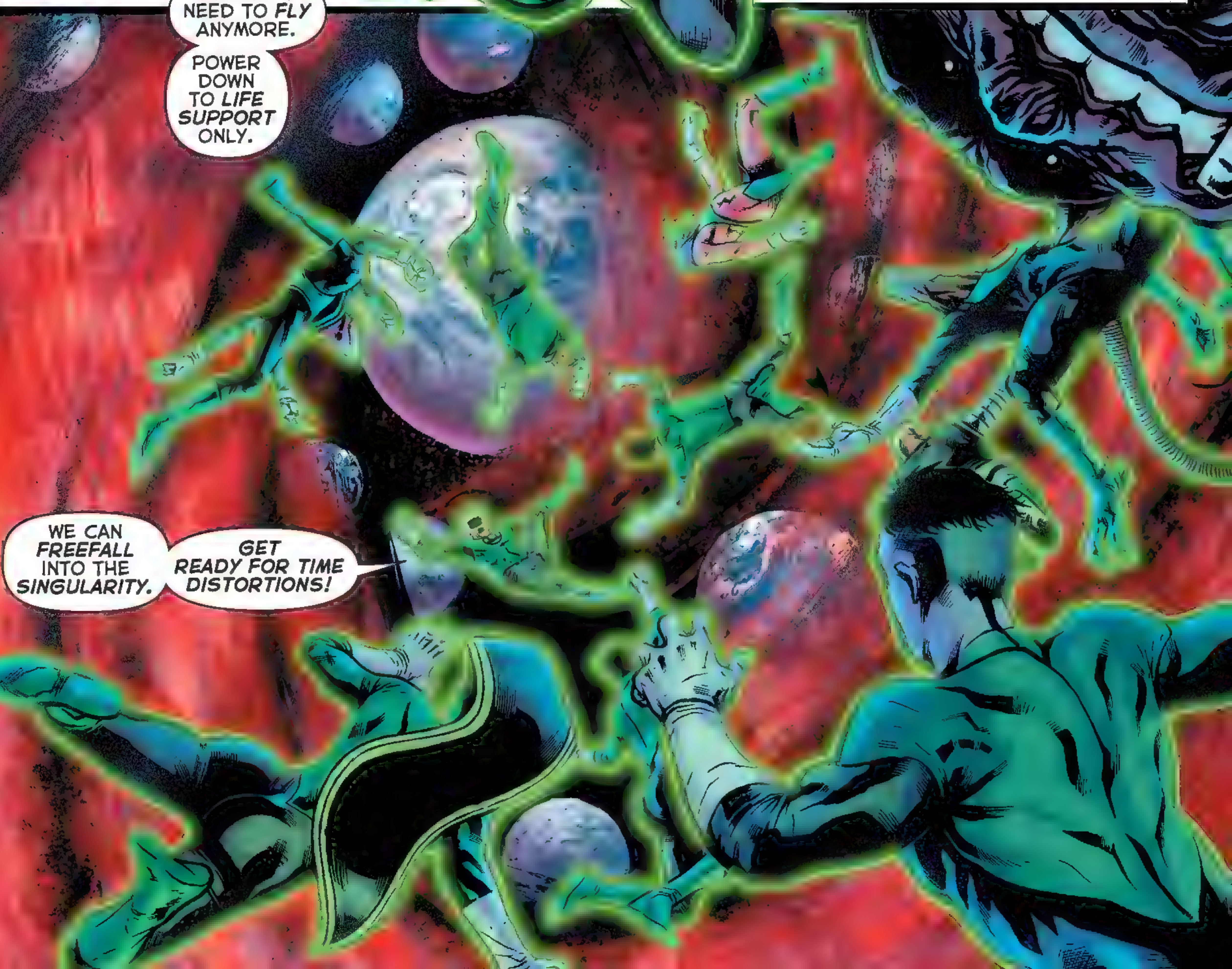
MY GOD.
LOOK AT IT.

RING POWER AT 20%

WE'RE USING UP JUICE TO MAINTAIN HYPERSPACE VELOCITY, HAL.
JUST SAYING.

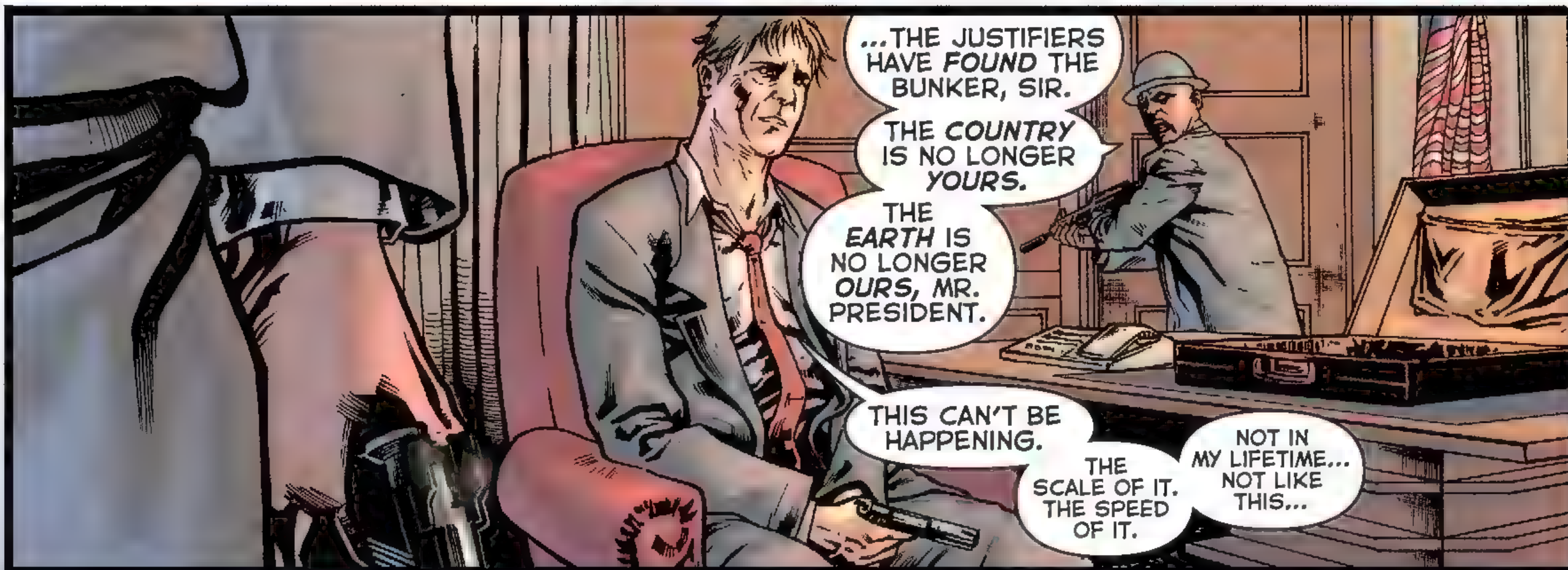
WE DON'T NEED TO FLY ANYMORE.

POWER DOWN TO LIFE SUPPORT ONLY.



WE CAN FREEFALL INTO THE SINGULARITY.

GET READY FOR TIME DISTORTIONS!



...THE JUSTIFIERS
HAVE FOUND THE
BUNKER, SIR.

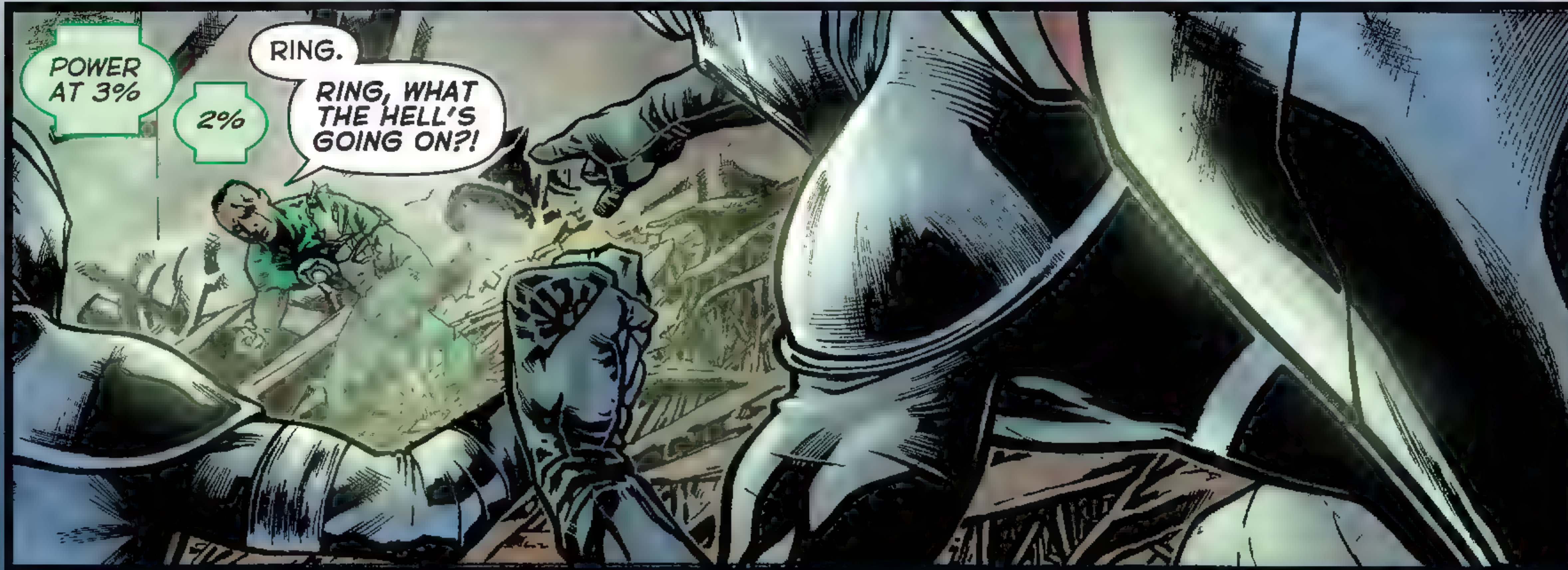
THE COUNTRY
IS NO LONGER
YOURS.

THE
EARTH IS
NO LONGER
OURS, MR.
PRESIDENT.

THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING.

THE
SCALE OF IT.
THE SPEED
OF IT.

NOT IN
MY LIFETIME...
NOT LIKE
THIS...



POWER
AT 3%

2%

RING.

RING, WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING ON?!



HE'S HERE!

THE FIFTH
WORLD OF
DARKSEID HAS
BEGUN!

THE NIGHT
OF ANGUISH
THAT LASTS
FOREVER.

I.

THE.

GOD.

AM.

NEW.

ALL IS ONE IN
DARKSEID.

THIS
MIGHTY BODY IS
MY CHURCH.

WHEN I
COMMAND YOUR
SURRENDER, I SPEAK
WITH THREE BILLION
VOICES...



WHEN
I MAKE A FIST
TO CRUSH YOUR
RESISTANCE.



IT IS WITH
THREE BILLION
HANDS!



WHEN
I STARE INTO
YOUR EYES AND
SHATTER YOUR
DREAMS.

AND
BREAK YOUR
HEART.



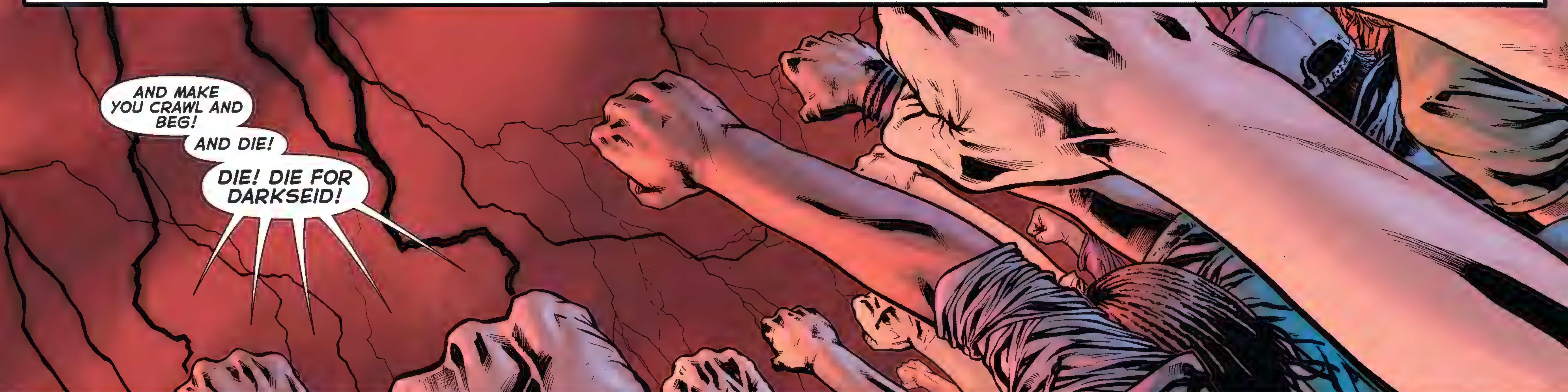
IT
IS WITH
SIX BILLION
EYES!



NOTHING
LIKE DARKSEID HAS
EVER COME AMONG YOU;
NOTHING WILL AGAIN.

I WILL TAKE YOU
TO A HELL WITHOUT
EXIT OR END.

AND THERE
I WILL MURDER
YOUR SOULS!



AND MAKE
YOU CRAWL AND
BEG!

AND DIE!

DIE! DIE FOR
DARKSEID!



SOMETHING
NEW IS BORN.

THE FIFTH
WORLD DAWNS
IN FLAME AND
THUNDER.

BATTLE
IS JOINED.

THE
JUDGE OF
ALL EVIL IS
HERE.





THE BUTLER DID IT

GRANT MORRISON
writer

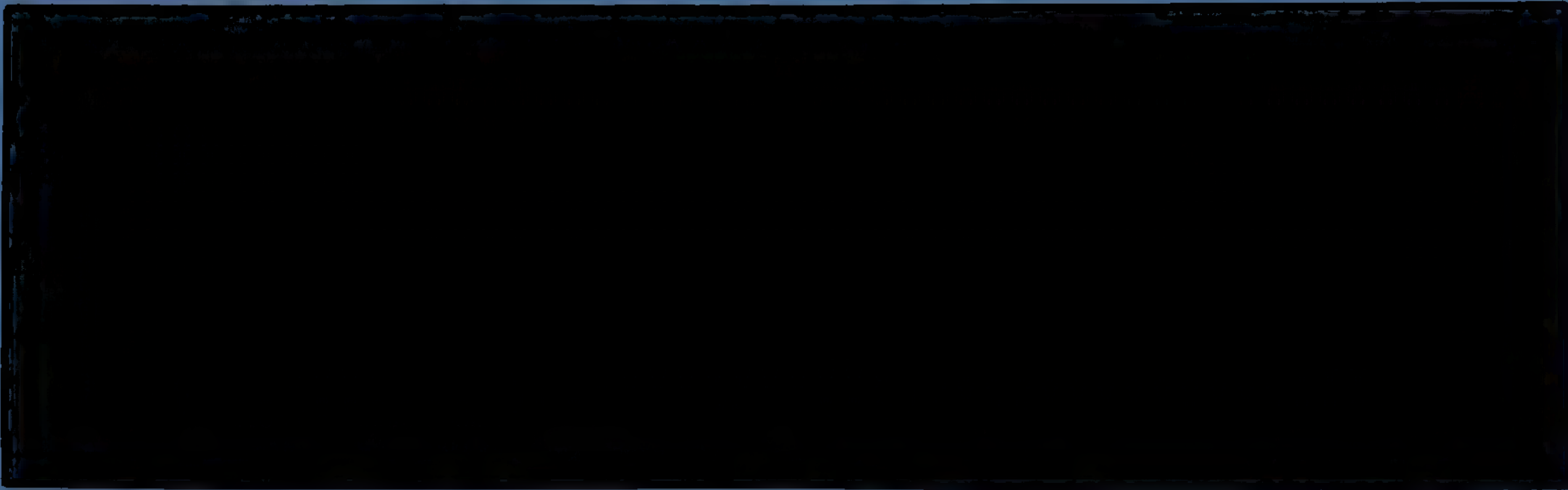
LEE GARBETT
penciller

TREVOR SCOTT
inker

GUY MAJOR
colorist

JARED K. FLETCHER
letterer

ALEX ROSS
cover artist





MASTER
BRUCE?

I CAME TO
TENDER MY
RESIGNATION.

Garrett



PLEASE ACCEPT
MY MOST SINCERE
APOLOGIES ON
HIS BEHALF, MISS
MADISON.

MASTER
BRUCE HAS
BEEN FORCED
TO *CANCEL*.



I NEED A
DISGUISE.



NO, THAT'S
NOT HOW IT
HAPPENED.

I'D ALREADY
DECIDED NOT
TO RESIGN.

AND THE
WINDOW WAS
OPEN, NOT
BROKEN.



THAT
PECULIAR,
BEADY-EYED
SPECIMEN,
QUITE
UNAFRAID.

IT COULD
HAVE BEEN
WORSE.



THE SIDE-
WINDER'S
COLD ENGINE
IS RUNNING
PERFECTLY,
MASTER
BRUCE.



ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED.



SO...

~FF~

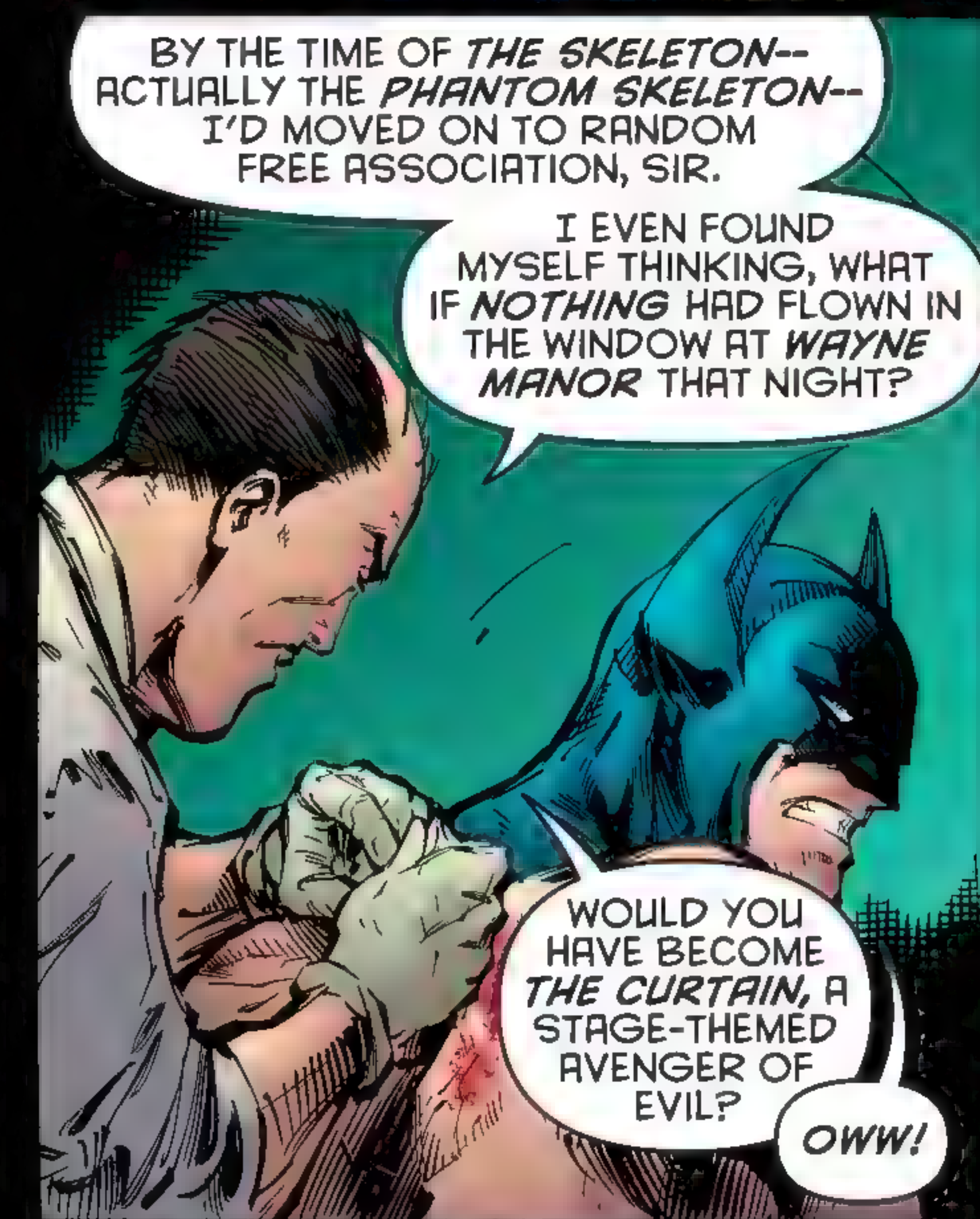
YOU
WORKED OUT
WHAT WOULD
HAVE HAPPENED
IF I'D BECOME
SOMETHING
OTHER THAN
A BAT?

LIKE
WHAT?

OBTVIOUS ONES
LIKE OWLMAN,
CATMAN,
PIGEONMAN,
THE RAVEN,
MOSQUITOMAN.

THE
SKELETON...

THE
SKELETON?



BY THE TIME OF *THE SKELETON*--
ACTUALLY THE *PHANTOM SKELETON*--
I'D MOVED ON TO RANDOM
FREE ASSOCIATION, SIR.

I EVEN FOUND
MYSELF THINKING, WHAT
IF *NOTHING* HAD FLOWN IN
THE WINDOW AT *WAYNE
MANOR* THAT NIGHT?

WOULD YOU
HAVE BECOME
THE CURTAIN, A
STAGE-THEMED
AVENGER OF
EVIL?

OWW!

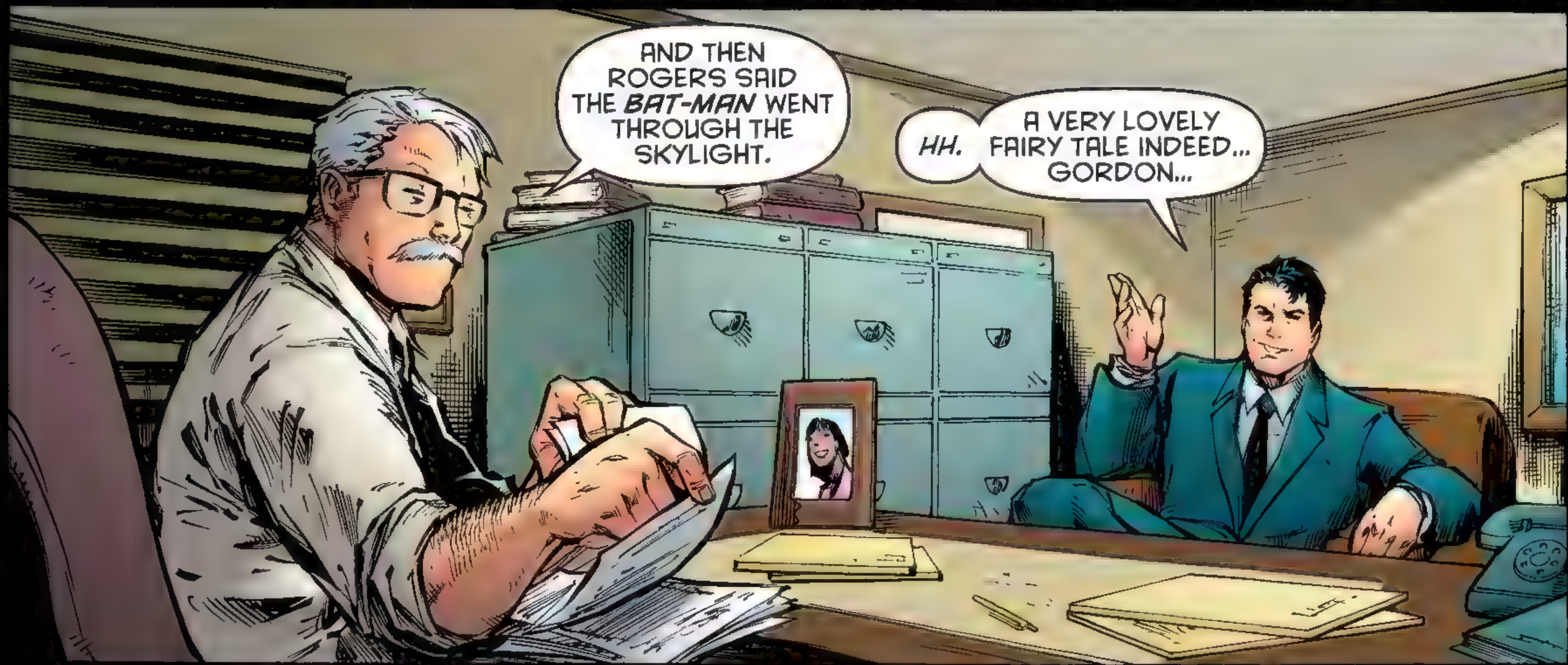


YES, I IMAGINE THAT
LAST ONE *HURT* QUITE
CONSIDERABLY.

IT NEEDN'T ALL
BE SO *LITERAL*,
MASTER BRUCE.

PERHAPS I'M
SIMPLY ENDEAVORING
TO DISTRACT YOU FROM
THE *PAIN* WHILE AT THE
SAME TIME MAKING AN
OBSERVATION.

HAVE YOU NOTICED
HOW YOU NO LONGER
REFER TO BATMAN
AS YOUR
DISGUISE?



AND THEN
ROGERS SAID
THE *BAT-MAN* WENT
THROUGH THE
SKYLIGHT.

HH.

A VERY LOVELY
FAIRY TALE INDEED...
GORDON...



ALFRED,
THIS IS THE
THIRD
TIME.

I'M SO
SORRY, MISS
MADISON.

MASTER
BRUCE IS
INDISPOSED.



IF HE WON'T *SEE*
ME, CAN YOU
GIVE HIM THIS,
ALFRED?

TELL HIM, IF IT
MATTERS TO HIM,
I'M LEAVING FOR
HOLLYWOOD
TOMORROW.

MISS
MADISON.



I'VE *SEEN* THAT LOOK, IN MEN'S EYES ON THE *BATTLEFIELD*.

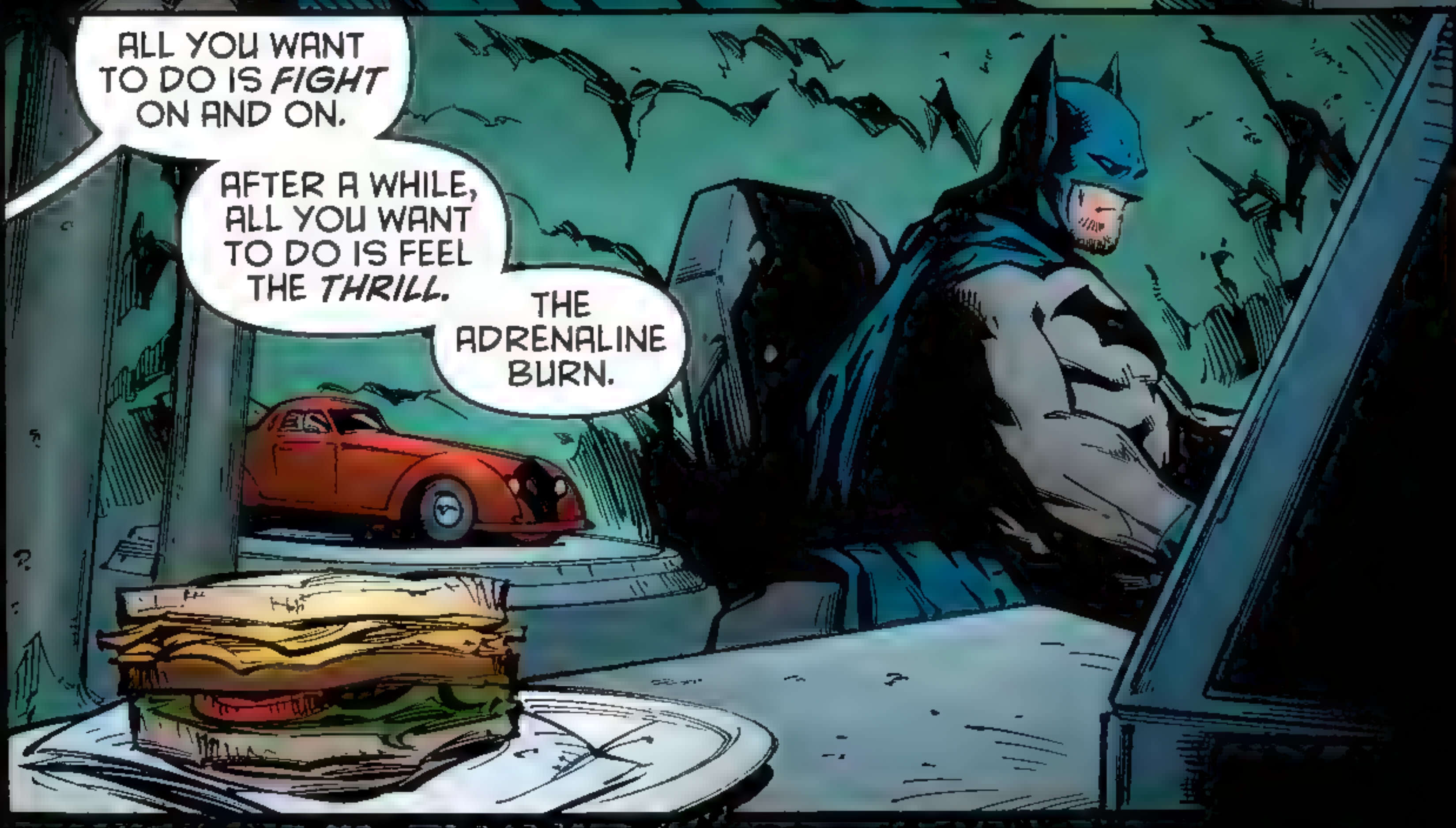
LIVING ON TEN MINUTES' SLEEP A DAY.

AND IT'S *WORKING*, ISN'T IT? IT'S CHASING AWAY THE *DEMONS*.

ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS *FIGHT* ON AND ON.

AFTER A WHILE, ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS FEEL THE *THRILL*.

THE ADRENALINE BURN.



I'M NOT CHASING THRILLS.

I'M CRUSHING *CRIME*.

I'M SAVING LIVES.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN?

YOU HAD QUITE A SENSE OF *HUMOR* WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE BOY.



YOU NEED IT NOW, SIR.

THE WAY YOU'RE *PUNISHING* YOURSELF, YOU'LL BE *DEAD* IN SIX MONTHS.

THAT'S *NOT* WHAT THEY WANTED.

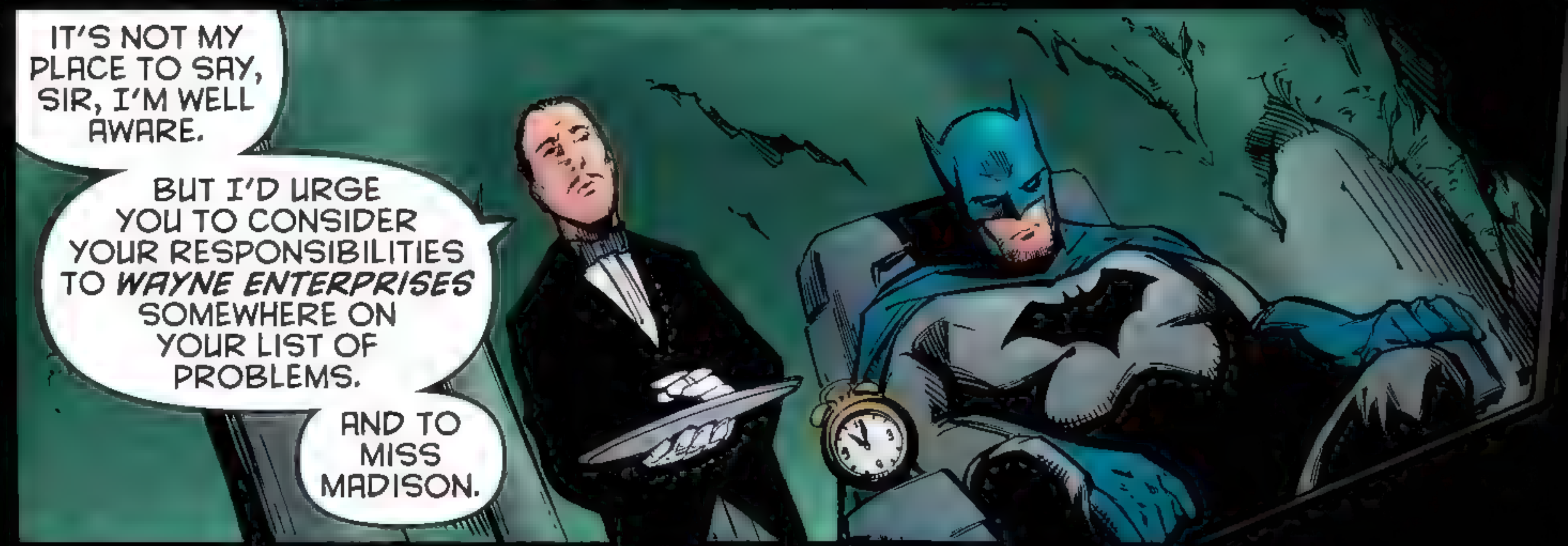




SIR.

ALFRED,
PLEASE.

REGULAR
PROBLEM-
SOLVING MICRO-
SLEEPS ARE
ALL I NEED.



IT'S NOT MY
PLACE TO SAY,
SIR, I'M WELL
AWARE.

BUT I'D URGE
YOU TO CONSIDER
YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES
TO *WAYNE ENTERPRISES*
SOMEWHERE ON
YOUR LIST OF
PROBLEMS.

AND TO
MISS
MADISON.



AND TO
BRUCE...

MASTER
BRUCE?

ZZzzzz



~SIGH~



HM.

OF
COURSE.

DOCTOR
DEATH WAS
SUPPLIED
BY APEX
CHEMICAL.

...I'VE DECIDED--
ONLY SHORT-TERM,
PHYSICAL AFFAIRS
IN MY LIFE.

CASUAL
RELATIONSHIPS.

TELL
JULIE.

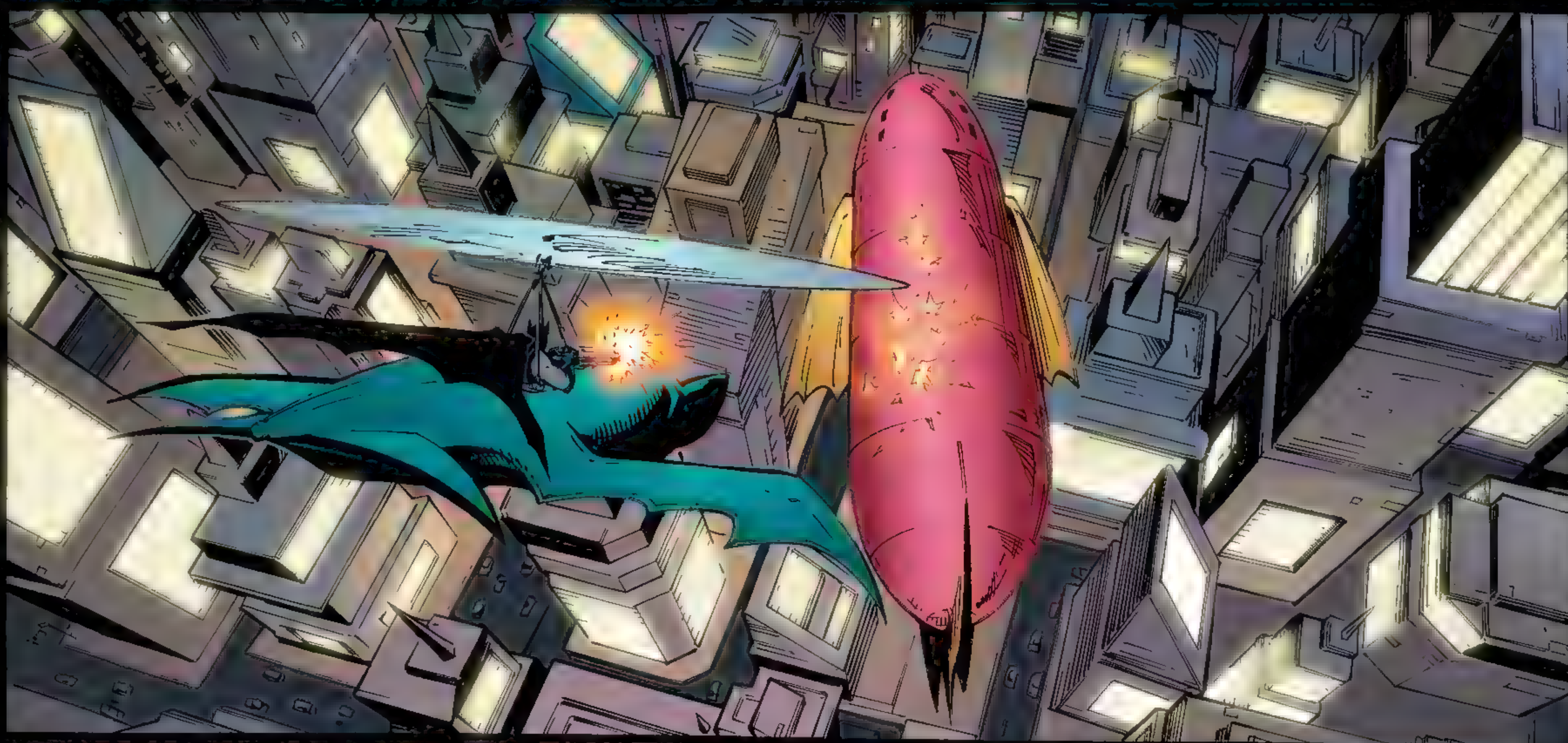
MISS MADISON
LEFT *GOTHAM CITY*
FOR *LOS ANGELES*
SEVERAL MONTHS
AGO.

DURING
ONE OF YOUR
"MICRO-SLEEPS,"
SIR.

IT'S BETTER
THAT WAY.

I DON'T THINK
I COULD FACE
THAT LOOK IN
HER EYES.

THE ONE
THAT SAYS SHE
WAS *RIGHT*
ABOUT ME.





...TICKETS TO THE CIRCUS?

APPARENTLY, THEY'RE VERY GOOD.

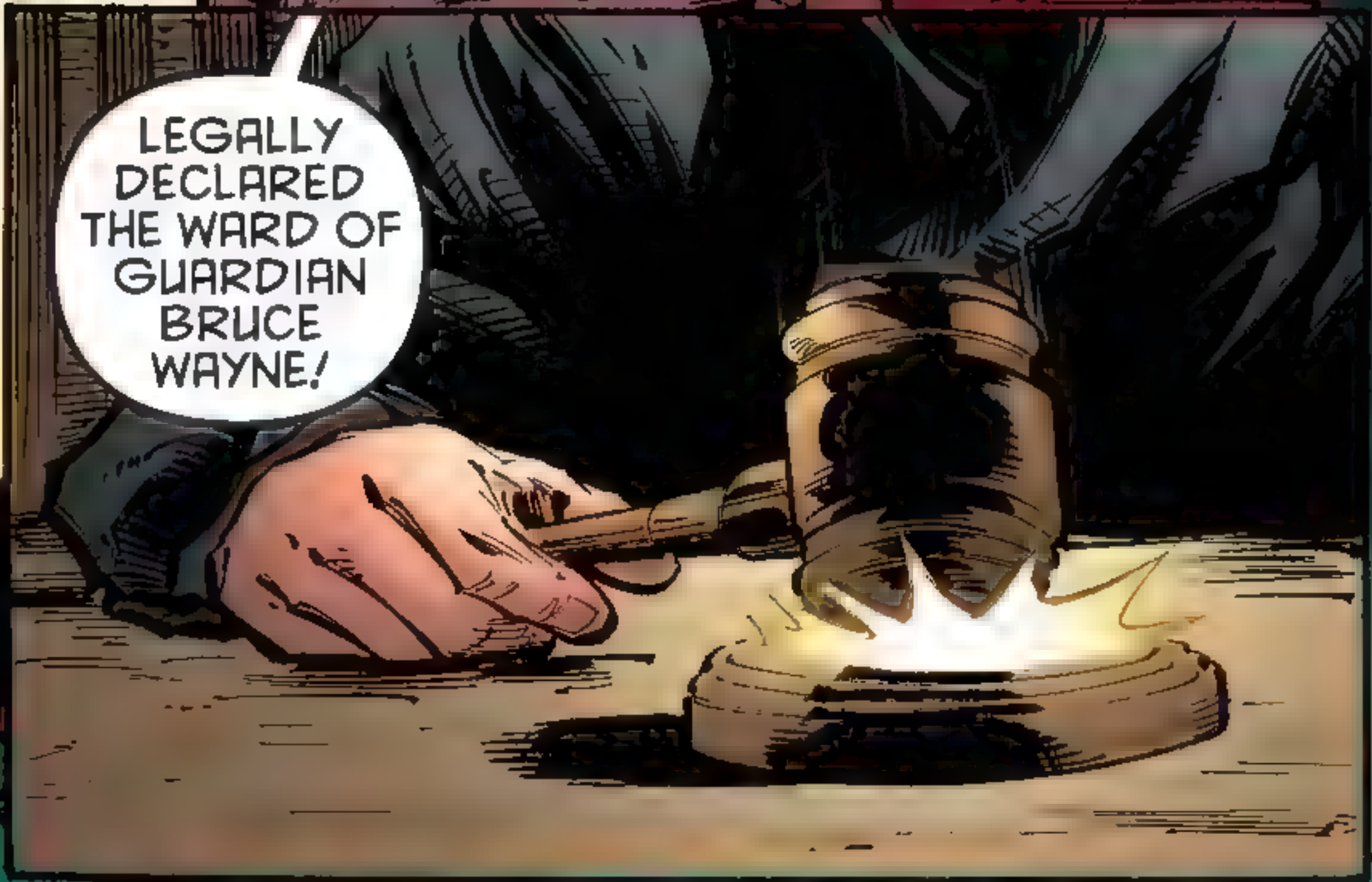
YOU PROMISED YOU'D TAKE *ONE NIGHT* AWAY FROM CRIME AND HORROR...AND QUITE FRANKLY THESE *LATEST* INJURIES GIVE YOU *NO CHOICE*.

OH, AND I'VE INFORMED THE MEDIA YOU HAD AN *ACCIDENT* PRACTICING FOR THE POLO CHAMPIONSHIP...





RICHARD GRAYSON.

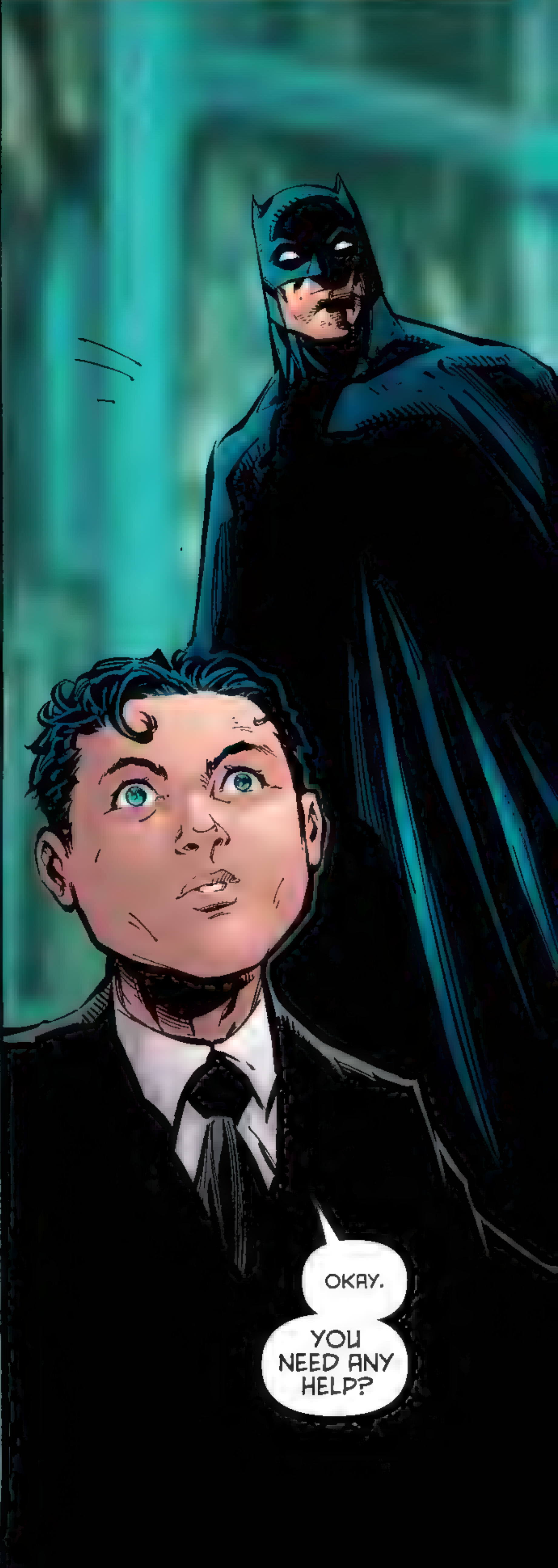


LEGALLY
DECLARED
THE WARD OF
GUARDIAN
BRUCE
WAYNE!

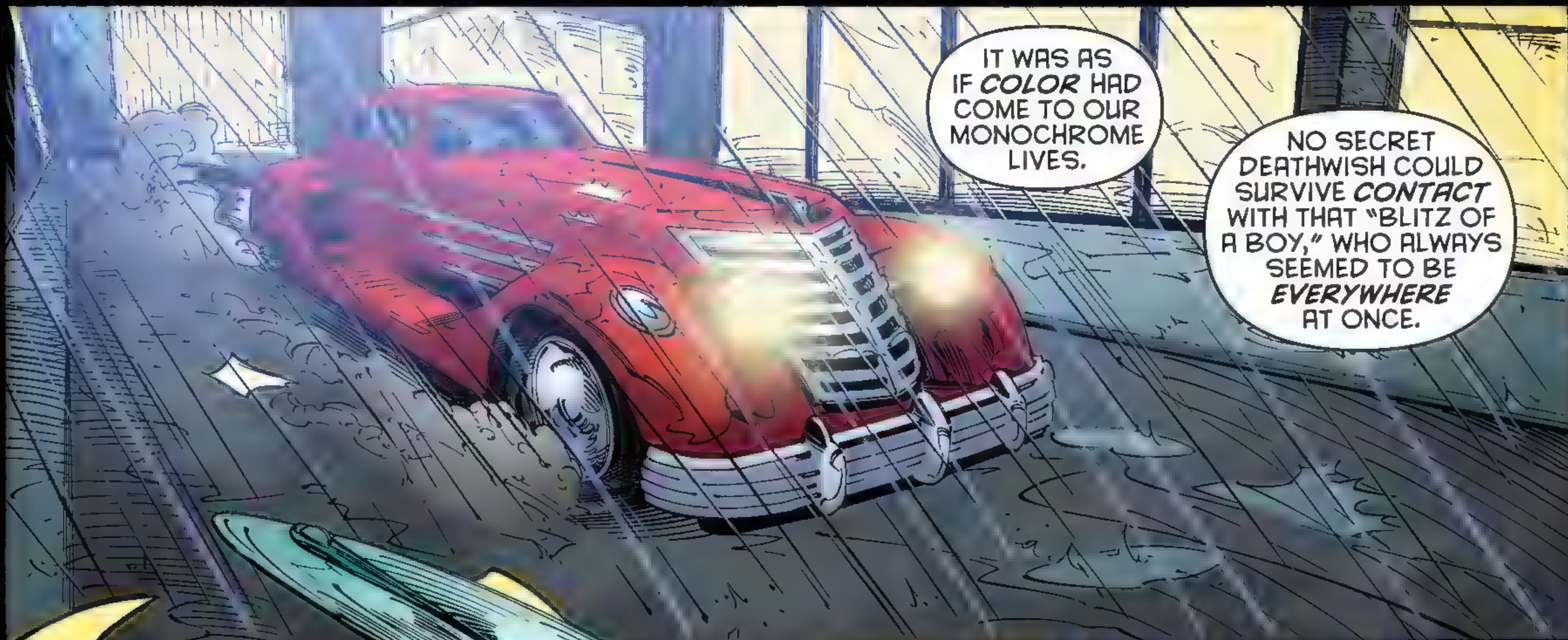


MY PARENTS
WERE KILLED
BY A CRIMINAL,
TOO.

THAT'S WHY
I'VE DEVOTED
MY LIFE TO
EXTERMINATING
THEM.



OKAY.
YOU
NEED ANY
HELP?



IT WAS AS IF **COLOR** HAD COME TO OUR MONOCHROME LIVES.

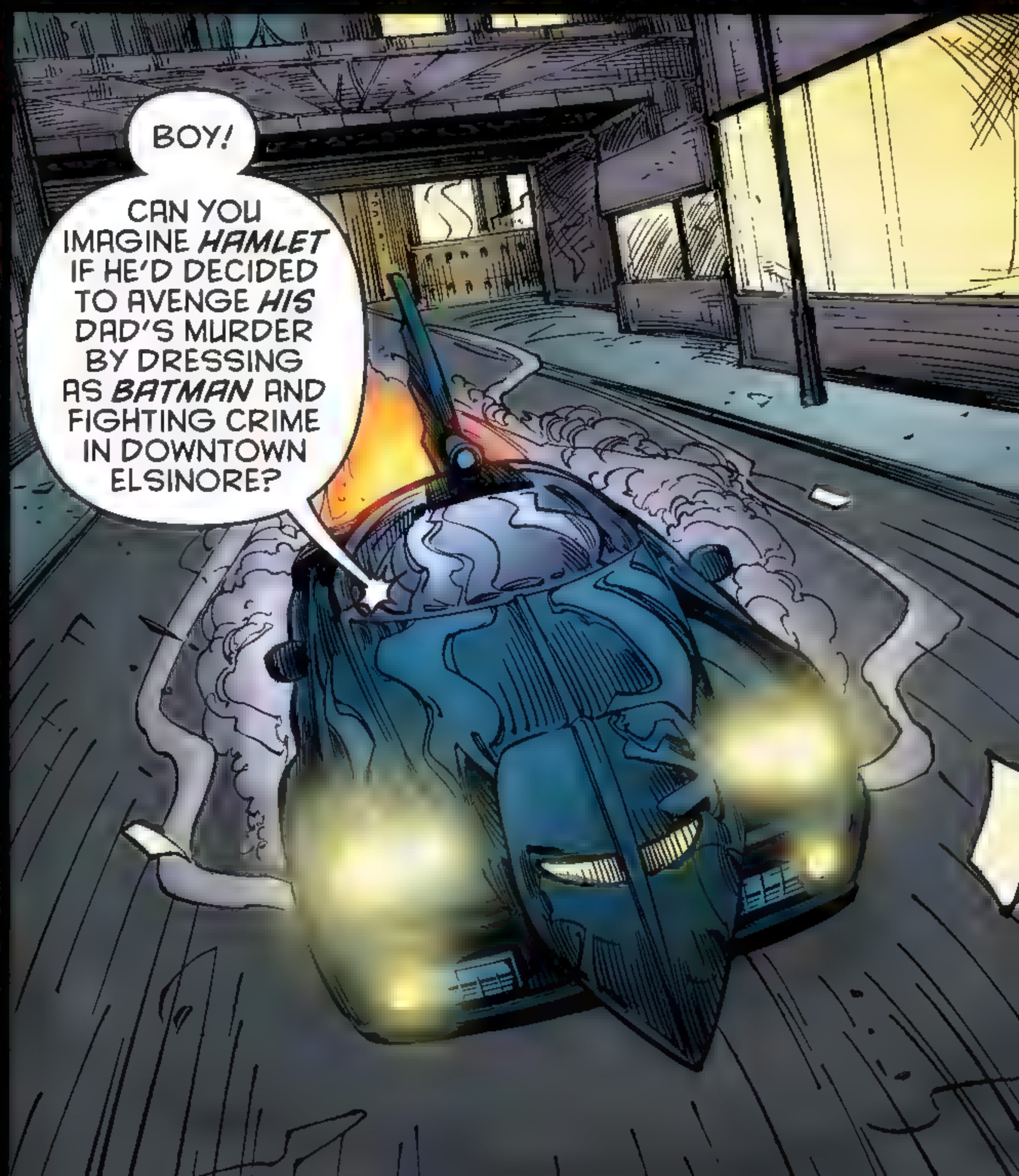
NO SECRET DEATHWISH COULD SURVIVE **CONTACT** WITH THAT "BLITZ OF A BOY," WHO ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE **EVERYWHERE** AT ONCE.



EVERYTHING... **CHANGED.**



SO ALFIE'S GOT ME READING THIS PLAY ABOUT THE SUPER-SMART, BROODING, RICH GUY TRYING TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S **MURDER...** AND IT COMES TO ME, **WHAM!**



BOY!

CAN YOU IMAGINE **HAMLET** IF HE'D DECIDED TO AVENGE **HIS** DAD'S MURDER BY DRESSING AS **BATMAN** AND FIGHTING CRIME IN DOWNTOWN ELSINORE?



a touch,
a touch, I do
confess!

HAHAHA

HAMLET!

LAERTES
CHEATED AND
DID THE BLADE
ENVENOM!



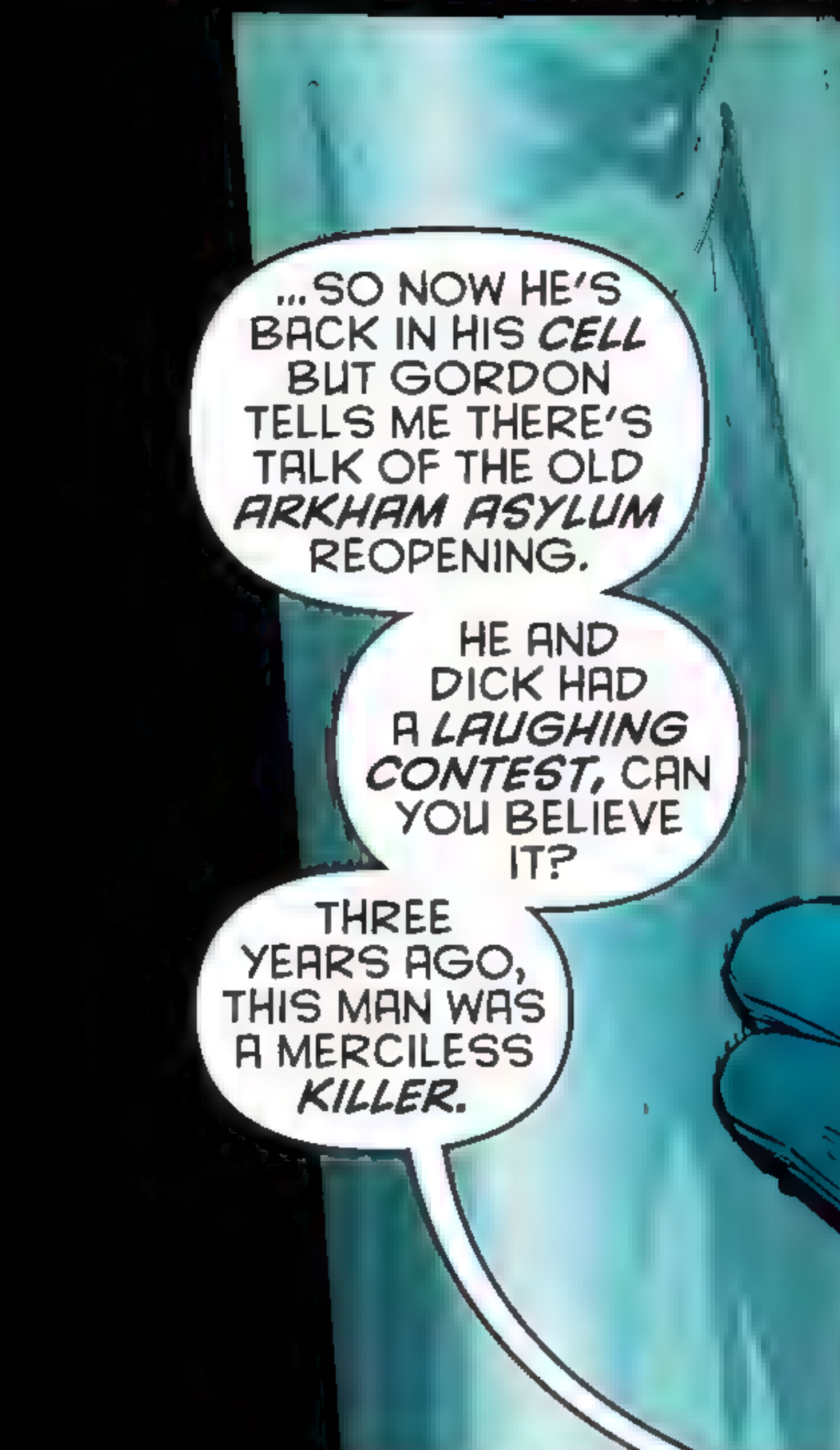
HA!



...instead of
donating to *charity*,
I just blew five million
dollars on a helicopter
that looks just
like me!

somebody
'round here
must be
crazy!

HAHAHAHA



...SO NOW HE'S
BACK IN HIS CELL
BUT GORDON
TELLS ME THERE'S
TALK OF THE OLD
ARKHAM ASYLUM
REOPENING.

HE AND
DICK HAD
A *LAUGHING
CONTEST*, CAN
YOU BELIEVE
IT?

THREE
YEARS AGO,
THIS MAN WAS
A MERCILESS
KILLER.



AH, THE
GOOD OLD
DAYS...

AND THE
OUTCOME,
NEED I
ASK...?



THE JOKER
GAVE UP,
WHEEZING.

TOO
OUT OF
BREATH TO
ESCAPE.

SOMETIMES
IT SEEMS LIKE
OUR ENTIRE LIVES
THESE LAST COUPLE
OF YEARS BELONG
IN THE *BLACK
CASEBOOK*,
ALFRED.



I HEARD THAT **MOTORCYCLE** OF HIS.

TELL DICK HE HAS TO STAY HOME AND STUDY FOR HIS **TEST** TOMORROW.

WITH RESPECT, SIR.

HIS GRADES ARE CONSISTENTLY **HIGH**, AND--



I CAN ONLY KEEP MY EYE ON **ONE** PARTNER AT A TIME.

AND I DON'T LIKE HIM GOING OUT **ALONE**.

BATWOMAN. **AHHH**

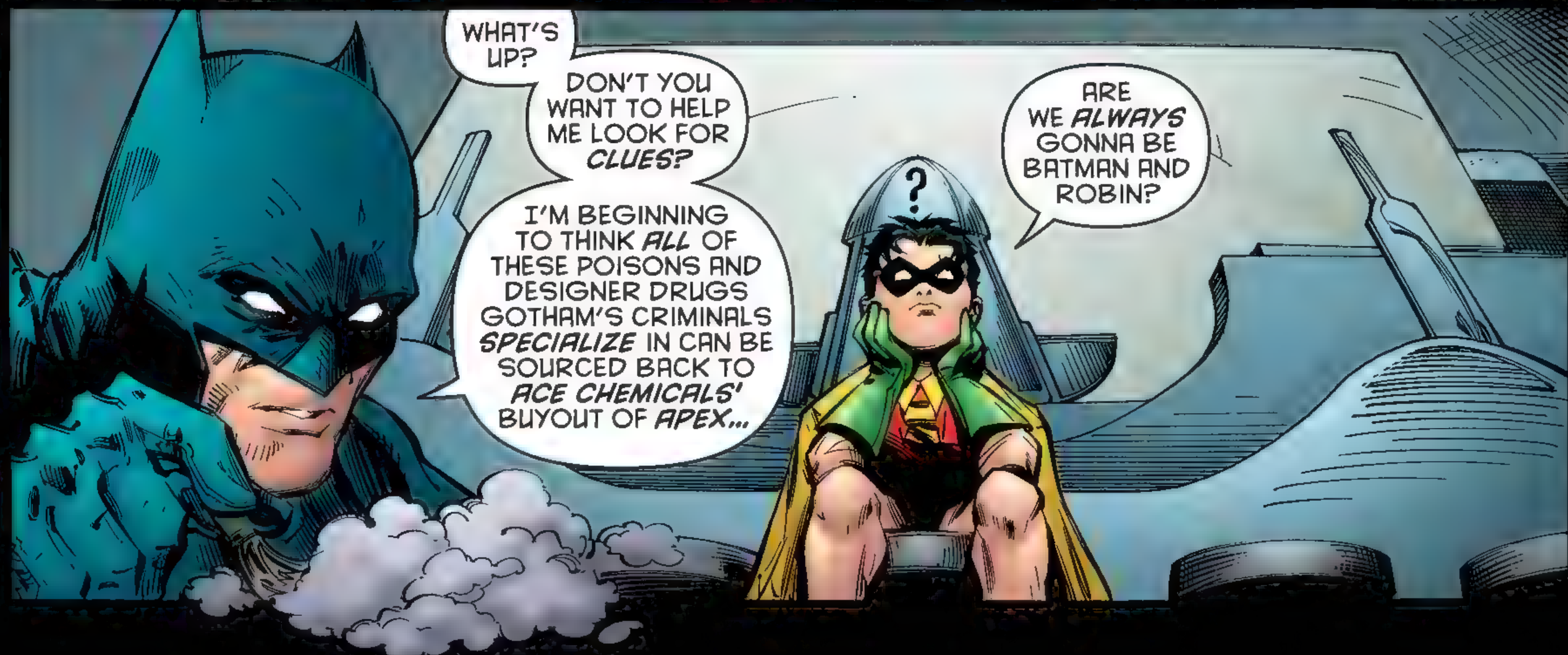
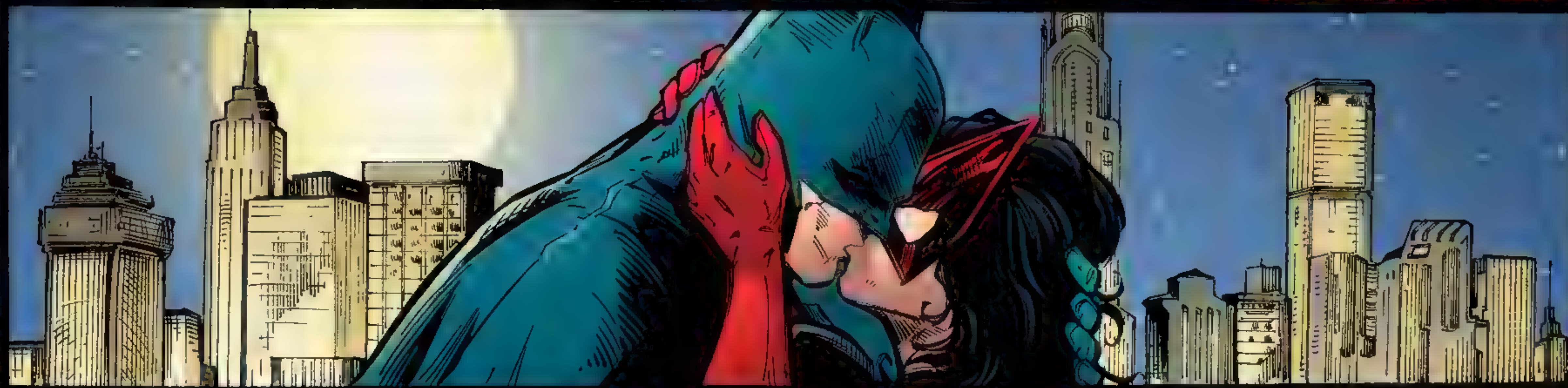


WHAT I DO ISN'T FOR **AMATEURS!**

I HAVE ALMOST A DECADE OF LIFE EXPERIENCE ON YOU.

I'M RICHER THAN YOU, I'M SMARTER THAN YOU, AND THERE **ARE** NO RULES TO THIS.

ARE WE HAVING A **TEAM-UP**, OR NOT?



WHAT'S UP?

DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP ME LOOK FOR **CLUES?**

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK **ALL** OF THESE POISONS AND DESIGNER DRUGS GOTHAM'S CRIMINALS **SPECIALIZE** IN CAN BE SOURCED BACK TO **ACE CHEMICALS'** BUYOUT OF **APEX...**

ARE WE **ALWAYS** GONNA BE BATMAN AND ROBIN?

?



SURE.
AS LONG
AS GOTHAM
NEEDS US.

LOOK,
YOU *KNOW*
I'M NOT SOME
WHINY KID,
BRUCE.

I DON'T
MEAN *ALWAYS*
ALWAYS.

I MEAN, EVEN
IF YOU GOT
MARRIED OR
SOMETHING.



LIKE IF I GOT
MARRIED TO
BATWOMAN,
IS THAT WHAT
YOU MEAN?

I DON'T
KNOW...

WE'D ALL
FIGHT CRIME
TOGETHER.

NO, I
THINK IT'S
A *GOOD*
THING.

IT'S
JUST...



JUST
WHAT?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ABOUT *HER* I
DON'T *TRUST*,
BRUCE.

SAME WITH
BATGIRL.



...don't
know...don't
know what
they gave
us...

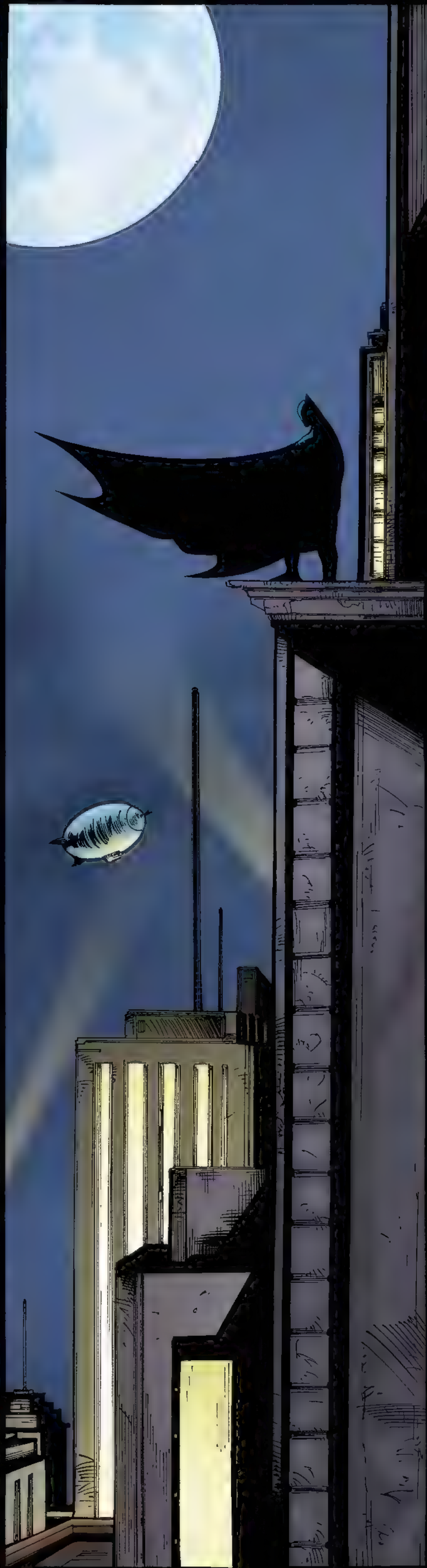
...feels like
I'm split
in two...

...my soul
dying...
on another
planet...
oh god...

...when
our souls
die...we die,
too...

I LOVE
YOU.

DYING
WOULDN'T
BE SO BAD IF
I KNEW YOU
LOVED ME,
TOO.



THIS IS A FIRST FOR HIM.

HE USUALLY BREAKS *THEIR* HEARTS.

I WAS A CIRCUS KID.

I *KNEW* ABOUT KATY KANE, BUT WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO BRUCE?

SO WHAT DOES HE DO NOW?

HE LEARNS.

HE PERSEVERES.

HE BEGINS AGAIN.

YOU VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS?

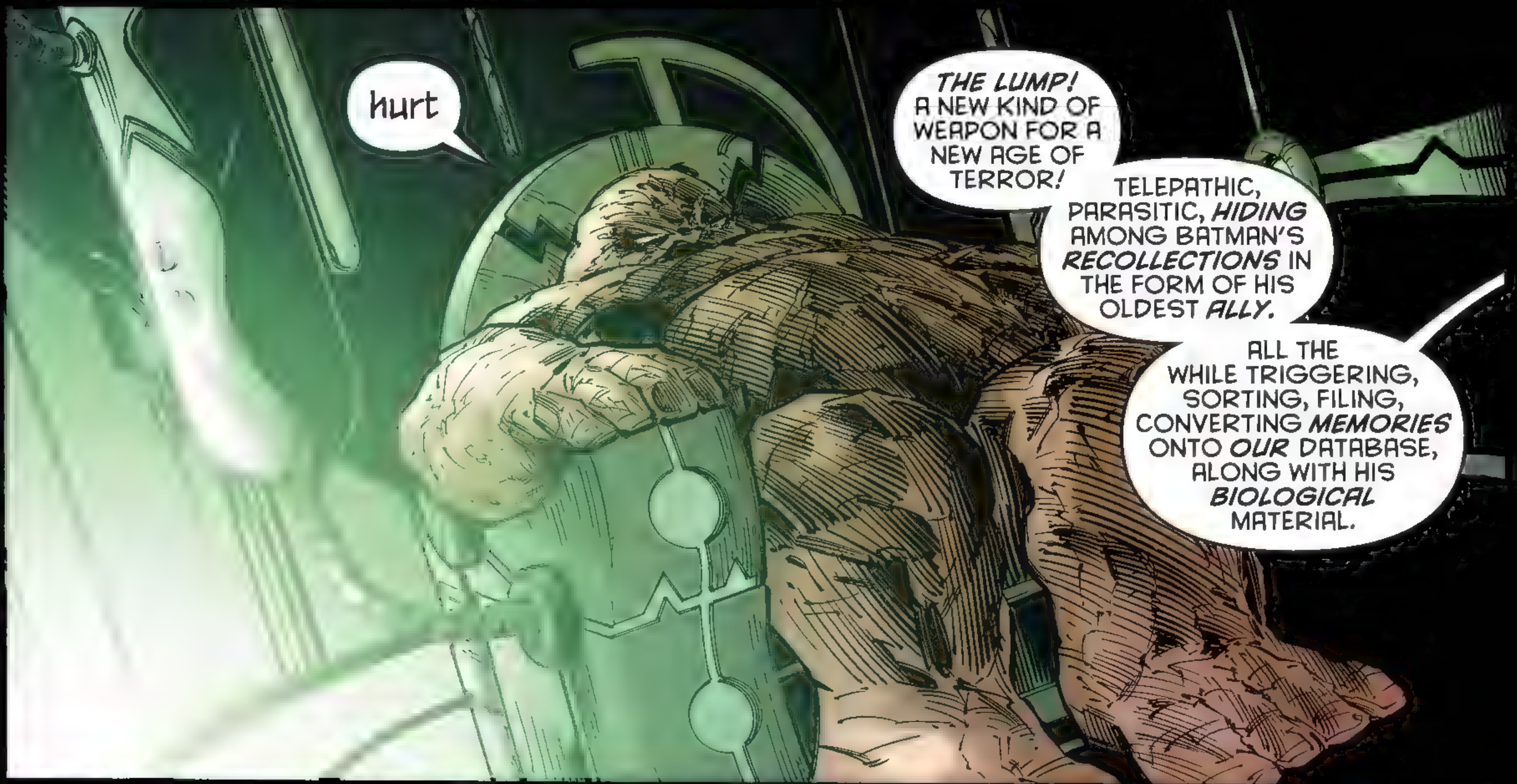
...THIS VAULT BENEATH POLICE HQ WAS BUILT TO HOLD SO-CALLED "MONSTER MEN" BACK IN THE HUGO STRANGE DAYS.

YOU'LL SPEND TEN DAYS HERE IN COMPLETE ISOLATION, SIMULATING THE EFFECTS OF LONELINESS DURING SPACE FLIGHT.

BATMAN.

YOUR IDENTITY AS THE *SUBJECT* OF THESE TESTS, WILL, OF COURSE, BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

HURT. DOCTOR SIMON HURT.



hurt

THE LUMP!
A NEW KIND OF
WEAPON FOR A
NEW AGE OF
TERROR!

TELEPATHIC,
PARASITIC, *HIDING*
AMONG BATMAN'S
RECOLLECTIONS IN
THE FORM OF HIS
OLDEST *ALLY*.

ALL THE
WHILE TRIGGERING,
SORTING, FILING,
CONVERTING *MEMORIES*
ONTO *OUR* DATABASE,
ALONG WITH HIS
BIOLOGICAL
MATERIAL.



ASHES TO
ASHES.

it's not
right

not
Alfie

DUST TO
DUST.



GNNN

NOT
ALFIE.



...WHEN DID IT
BECOME LIKE
SOME ENDLESS
GAME SHOW?

AND WHAT'S THE
CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE *CHEMICALS* AND THE
CRAZY PEOPLE?

WHATEVER
IT IS, THEY'VE
CERTAINLY TURNED
THE PLACE INTO
TOYTOWN,
SIR.

POP
CRIMINALS, I
BELIEVE THEY'VE
STARTED TO
CALL THEM.



...you look *tired*, batman.

like I say, sometimes the fun just has to *end*.

and I'm thinking... *practical* jokes next time around.

HN
HN HN
HN HN
HN

AT THAT TIME, NO ONE HAD DEVOTED *SERIOUS* STUDY TO THE JOKER'S FLAMBOYANT PATHOLOGY.

BATMAN WAS, CUSTOMARILY, AHEAD OF THE *CURVE*, AS THEY SAY.

HE KEEPS COMING BACK... *DIFFERENT*.

I THINK HE *RECREATES* HIMSELF CONSTANTLY.

LIKE SOME KIND OF SUPER-MPD.

WE NEED TO MAKE SURE HE'S CAREFULLY *MONITORED* IN CASE HIS ORIGINAL...

...HIS ORIGINAL PERSONA RESURFACES.

WHAT?

I THOUGHT I'D TRY OUT SOMETHING *NEW* FOR MY *TEEN TITANS* MEETING.

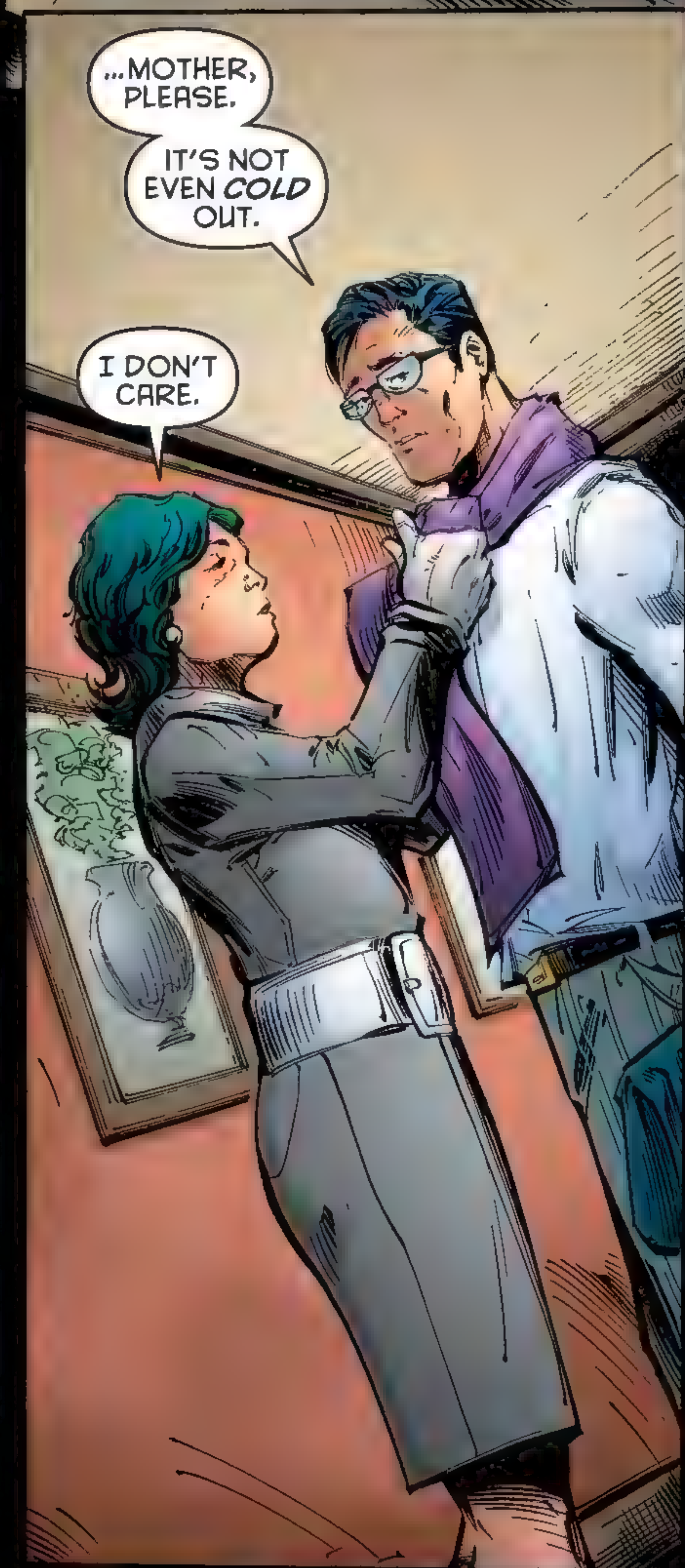
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN WEARING THE SAME THING SINCE I WAS A LITTLE *KID*...





I'VE GOT HIM!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BRUCE!
I'M COMING TO GET YOU.

You're safe.
Mommy's here.
Mommy's here.



...MOTHER, PLEASE.
IT'S NOT EVEN COLD OUT.
I DON'T CARE.



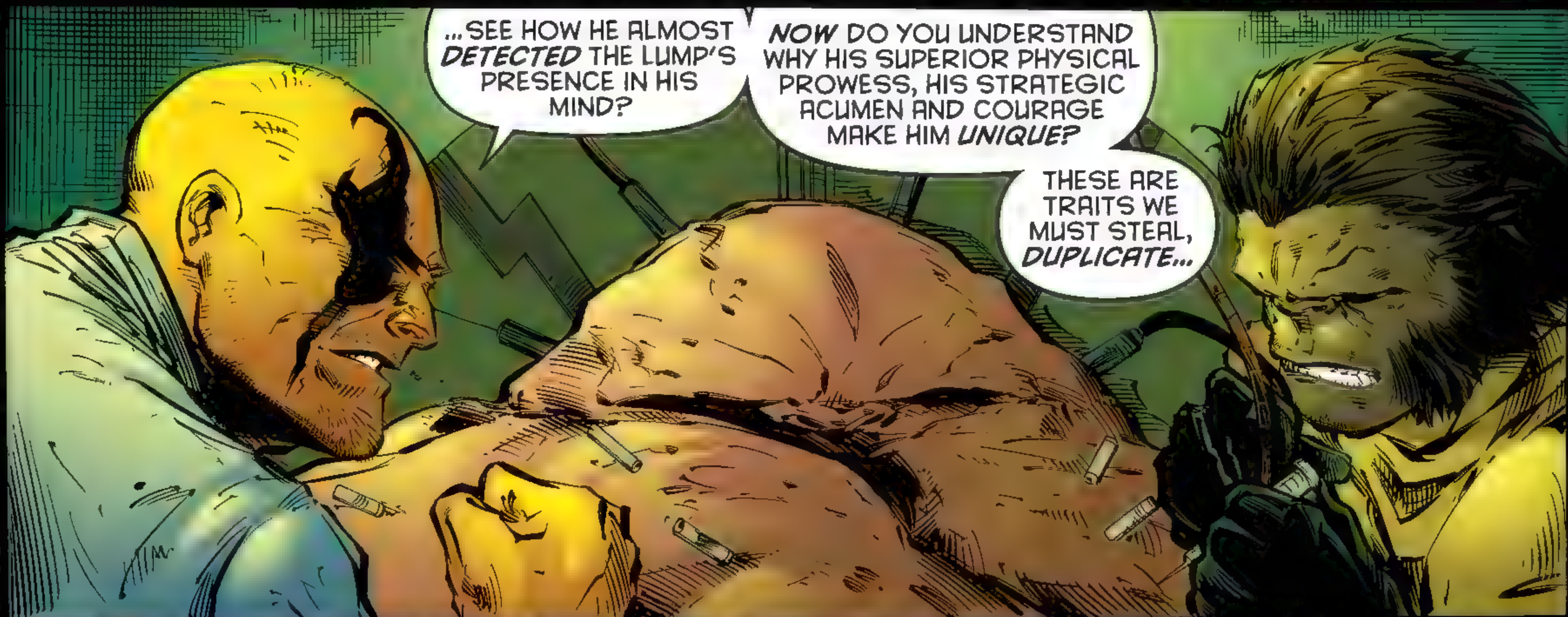
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
I HAVE LUNCH AND COCKTAILS PLANNED! AND YET *ANOTHER* VISIT WITH MY PSYCHIATRIST.



THEY NEED *BOTH* OF US AT THE HOSPITAL.
SOME GRINNING MENTAL PATIENT HAS POISONED THE RESERVOIR.
THERE WAS NO ONE TO STOP HIM.



HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE SICK OR DYING, SO TRY TO WIPE THAT LOOK OF DISINTEREST OFF YOUR FACE.
ALFRED.
DRIVE.
SIR.



...SEE HOW HE ALMOST
DETECTED THE LUMP'S
PRESENCE IN HIS
MIND?

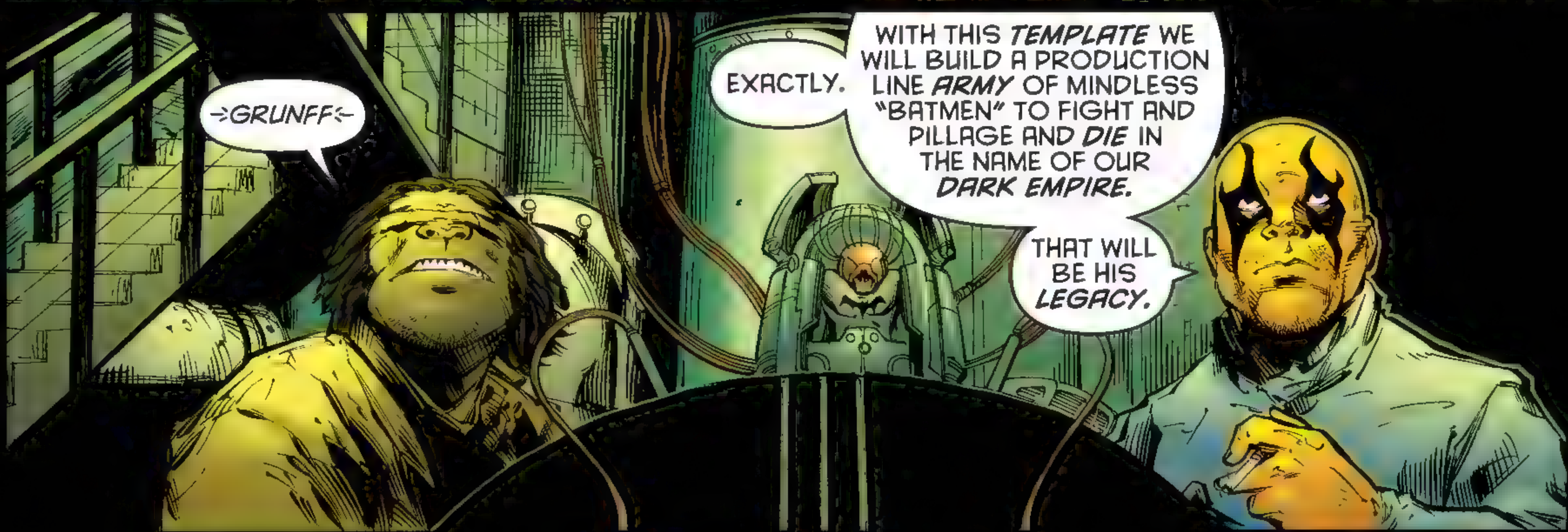
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND
WHY HIS SUPERIOR PHYSICAL
PROWESS, HIS STRATEGIC
ACUMEN AND COURAGE
MAKE HIM **UNIQUE**?

THESE ARE
TRAITS WE
MUST STEAL,
DUPLICATE...



...AND **MASS-
PRODUCE!**

PERFECT
COPIES, DRIVEN
BY A **CONCENTRATED**
DOSE OF HIS INTENSE
EMOTIONS, HIS **FURY**,
HIS **PAIN**, HIS
DRIVE.



=GRUNFF=

EXACTLY.

WITH THIS **TEMPLATE** WE
WILL BUILD A PRODUCTION
LINE **ARMY** OF MINDLESS
"BATMEN" TO FIGHT AND
PILLAGE AND **DIE** IN
THE NAME OF OUR
DARK EMPIRE.

THAT WILL
BE HIS
LEGACY.



HE'LL YIELD UP **ALL**
THE SECRETS OF HIS
LIFE TO **THE LUMP**,
YOU'LL SEE.

AND WHEN
THE LUMP IS **DONE**,
WE'LL **GUT** BATMAN FOR
SPARE PARTS, **WITHOUT**
ANAE^{STHETIC}, I
SHOULD THINK.

AND THAT,
MISTER SIMYAN...
THAT WILL
BE **THAT**.





THE BUTLER DID IT AGAIN

GRANT MORRISON
writer

LEE GARBETT
penciller

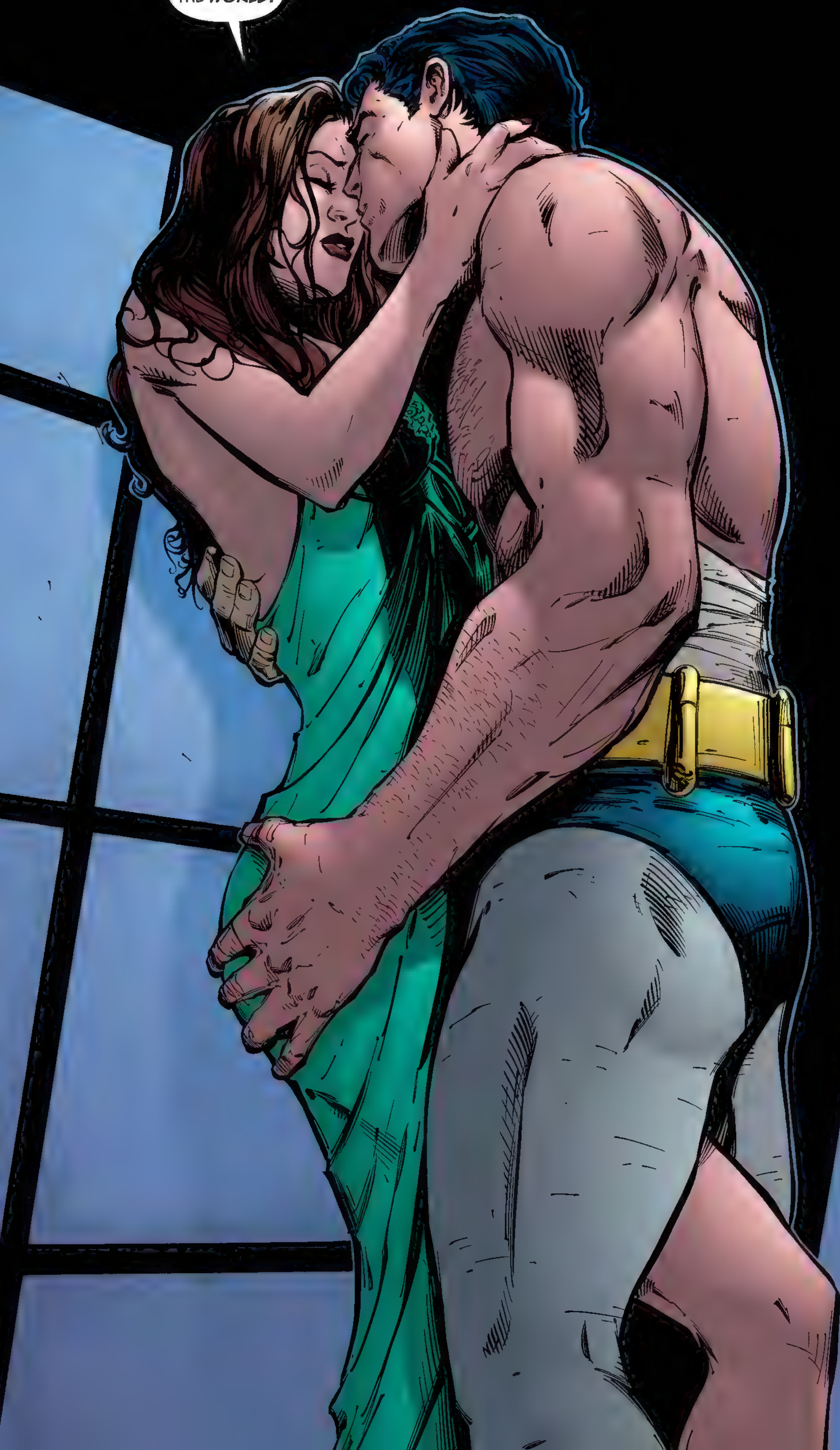
TREVOR SCOTT
inker

GUY MAJOR
colorist

JARED K. FLETCHER
letterer

ALEX ROSS
cover artist

OUR SON
WILL INHERIT
THE WORLD.

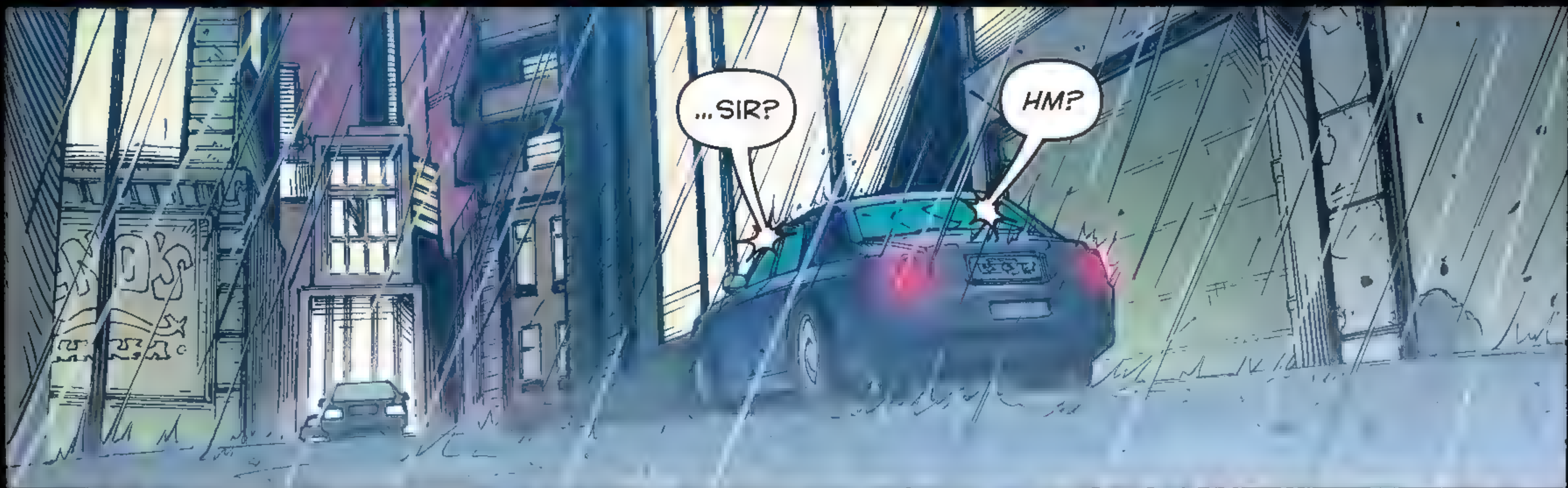




DETECTIVE.

GRAAARR

BELOVED.



...SIR?

HM?



OH, ALFRED.

SORRY... MILES AWAY.

EVERY TIME I LOOK AT THESE CASE FILES MY MIND STARTS TO *WANDER*.

I WAS JUST SAYING THE NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER HAS HIS *WORK* CUT OUT.



YES.

POOR GORDON-- NO ONE DESERVED TO DIE THAT WAY.

DO YOU EVER IMAGINE YOU'RE *SOME-ONE ELSE*, ALFRED?





SOMEONE
EXCITING.



I LIKE TO
READ, SIR--
THAT'S MY
OUTLET.

MYSTERIES,
UNLIKELY
TALES.

BLOOD AND
THUNDER, YOU
MIGHT SAY.

Hi.



I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU
REMEMBER THAT TERRIBLE
MURDER CASE, A FEW
YEARS BACK?

CIRCUS BOY.

HIS PARENTS WERE
ASSINATED BY
THE *CHEMICAL
RACKETEERS*
AND HE WENT OUT
ON HIS OWN TO...
WELL, TO *AVENGE*
THEM, I
SUPPOSE...



THE *JOKER*
KILLER KEPT THE
BOY ALIVE IN A
ROOM FOR
TEN DAYS.

FILMED
THE WHOLE
THING.

THEY NEVER
FOUND THE
BODY.

VERY
UNPLEASANT
BUSINESS,
AS I RECALL,
SIR.



I STILL SAY *LETHAL
INJECTION* WAS TOO
GOOD FOR THAT
GRINNING BLOODY
MONSTER.

WHAT, MAY I ASK,
SIR, WOULD BRING
THAT TO MIND?

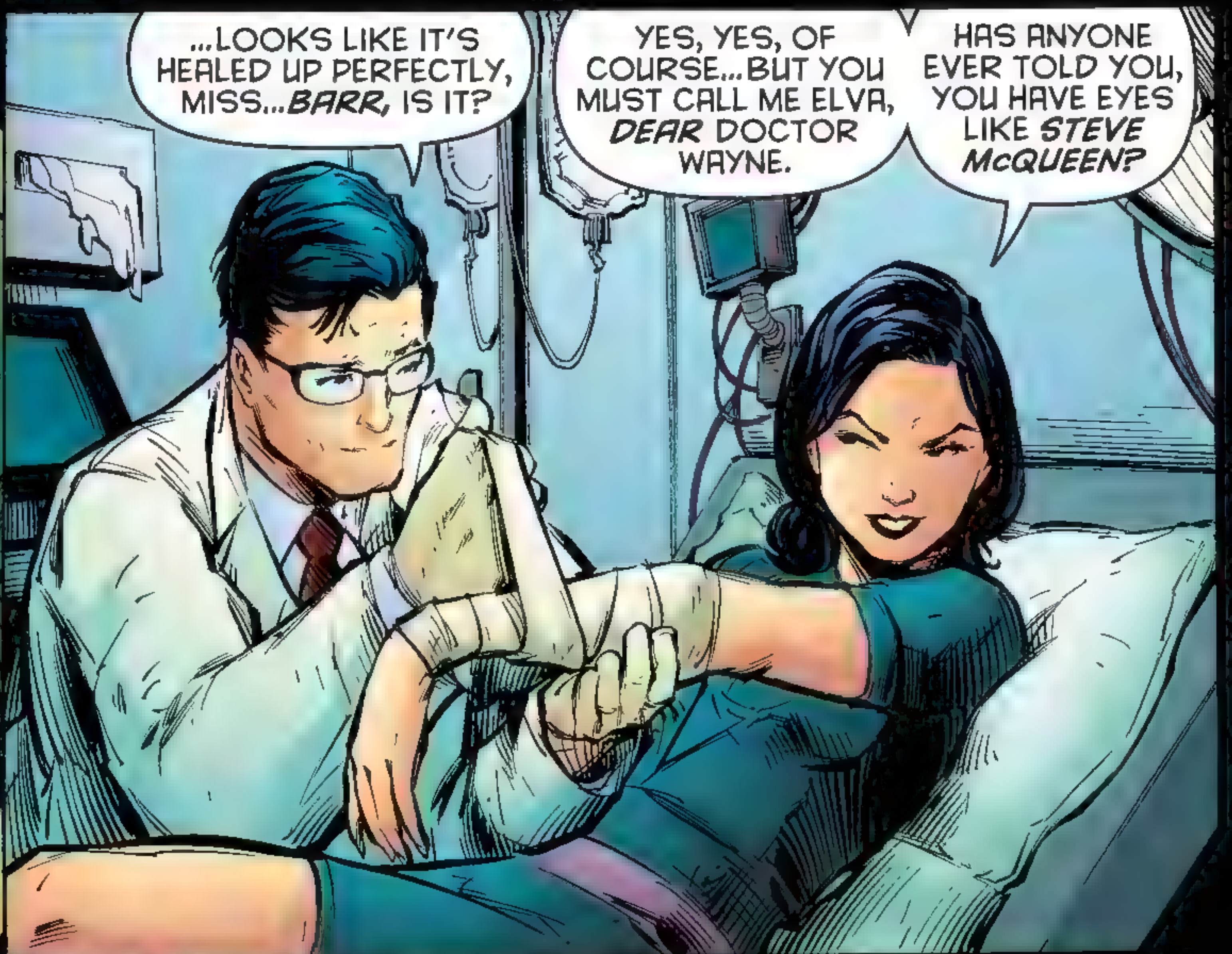
WELL
THAT'S THE
THING...

...I KEEP
THINKING I
COULD HAVE
SAVED THE
BOY SOME-
HOW.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY.



I CAN'T
SEEM TO
GET IT OUT
OF MY
HEAD.





HER NAME IS **SELINA KYLE**,
A COMMON PROSTITUTE,
CON WOMAN AND THIEF.

WHILE YOU WERE
MAKING GOO-GOO
EYES, SHE STOLE YOUR
WATCH, YOUR **WALLET**,
YOUR **KEYS** AND HALF
THE CONTENTS OF
THE **PHARMACY**.

IT'S BAD
ENOUGH THAT
YOU'RE A LAUGHING-
STOCK, BRUCE...



YOU SAY THESE
FALSE MEMORIES ARE
SUPPOSED TO KEEP HIM
BUSY WHILE WE STEAL
THE **REAL** ONES.

HIS **WORST**
FEARS UNFOLDING,
BLINDING HIS MIND
TO OUR PIRACY?

I DON'T
TRUST HIM,
MISTER SIMYAN.
THIS BATMAN HAS
A **REPUTATION**.

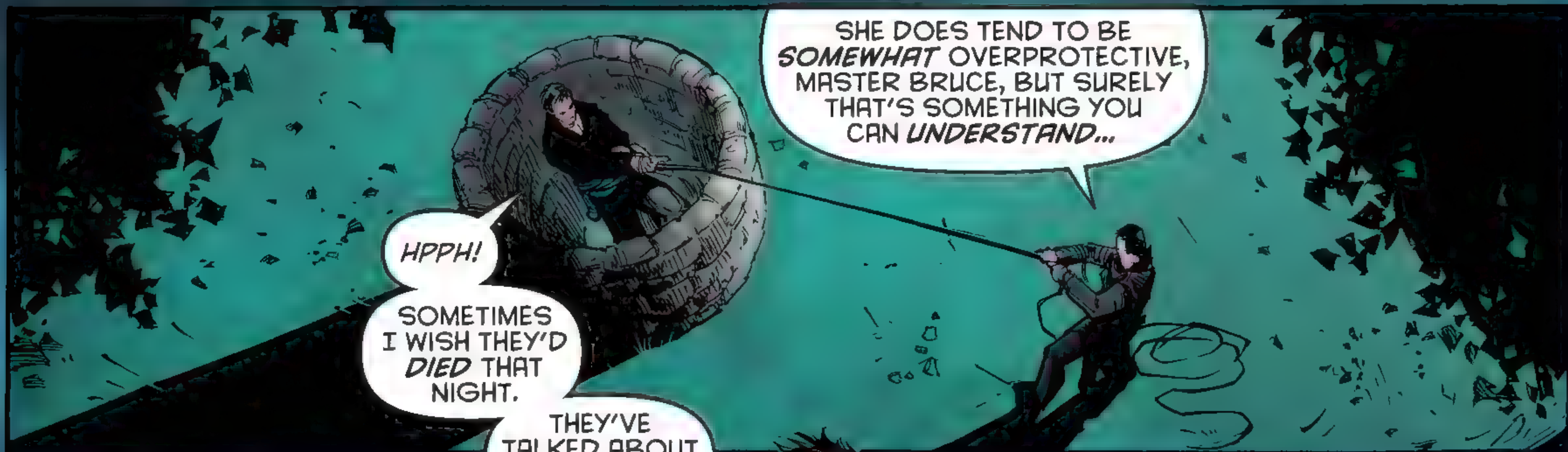
=>HOFFH<=



YOUR MOTHER APPEARS TO
BE UTTERLY CONVINCED THE
DOG FOUND HIS WAY INTO
THE OLD WELL, SIR.

AND IF SHE FINDS
OUT I **ALLOWED** YOU
TO TALK ME INTO THIS
MISADVENTURE...

MY MOTHER
IS **DETERMINED**
TO PREVENT THE
POSSIBILITY OF
DANGER OR
EXCITEMENT
ENTERING MY
LIFE, ALFRED.



SHE DOES TEND TO BE
SOMEWHAT OVERPROTECTIVE,
MASTER BRUCE, BUT SURELY
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU
CAN *UNDERSTAND*...

HPPH!

SOMETIMES
I WISH THEY'D
DIED THAT
NIGHT.

THEY'VE
TALKED ABOUT
NOTHING ELSE
SINCE.



SIR.

I KNOW
YOU DON'T
MEAN THAT,
SIR!

MAYBE
NOT,
ALFRED.

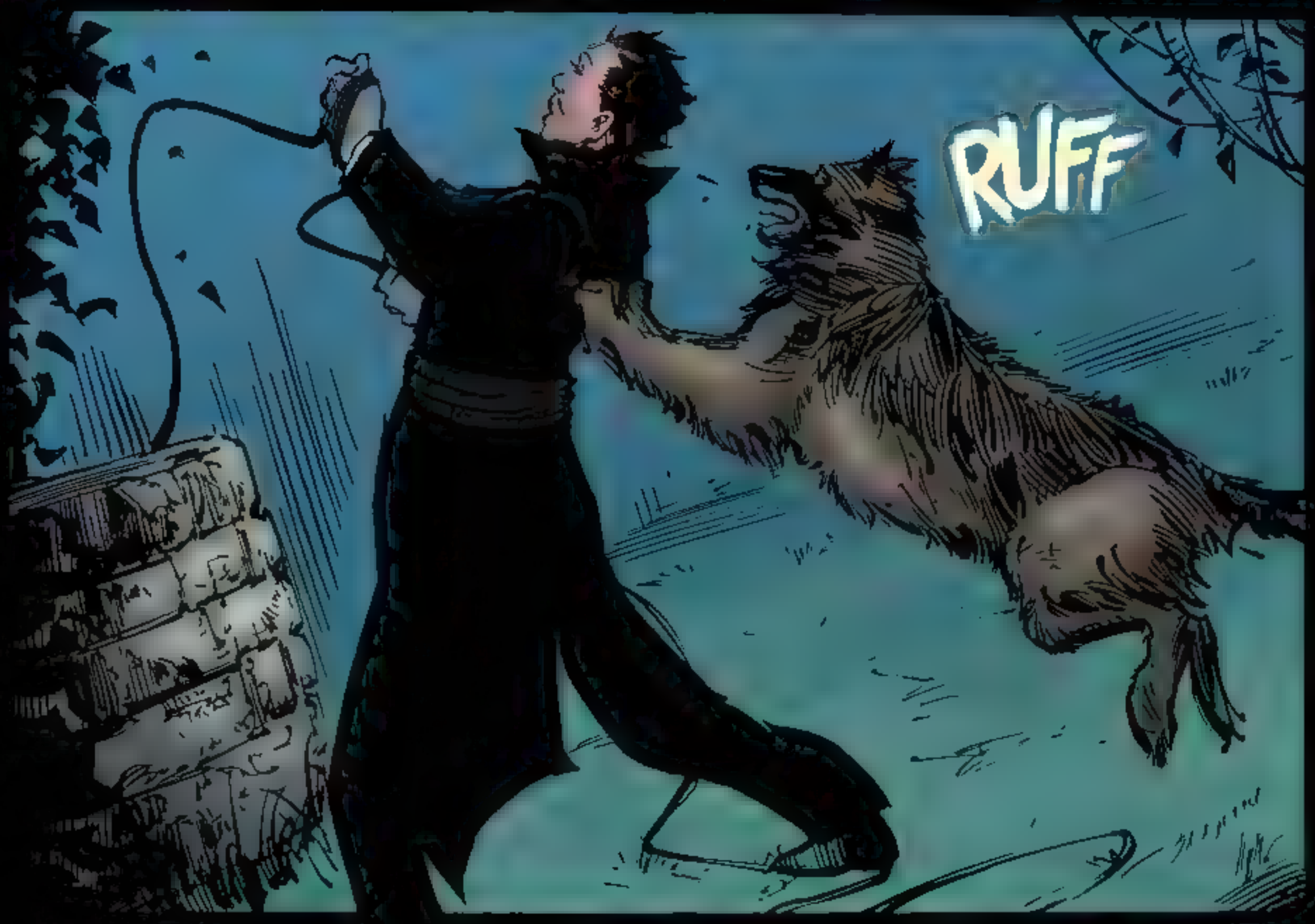
MAYBE I
WISH IT'D
BEEN ME.

HMMM

THIS IS
ODD...

ACE?

ACE,
ARE YOU
THERE,
BOY?



RUFF



OH MY GOD.
ALFRED.



I KNEW IT!
BATMAN'S FIGHTING BACK!
CHANGE HIS MIND!
CHANGE HIS MIND NOW!



CLOSE ONE, MISTER SIMYAN--
VERY CLOSE.

THE BRUTE'S NO GOOD TO US *AWAKE*.

ONLY IN THE WORLD OF THE *MIND* IS THE LUMP THE MASTER.

=>HORRF<=

=>ROFF<=

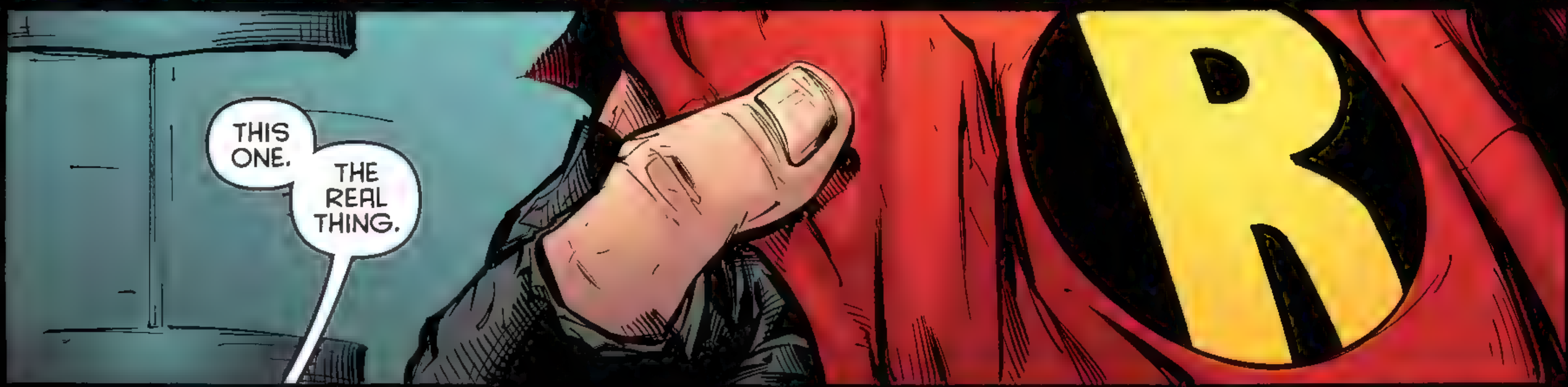


...MAYBE I WORK BETTER *WITH* A PARTNER.

I DON'T KNOW.

WE'RE DEVELOPING A FEW CRANKY ROUTINES, YOU AND I.

I CAN'T *IMAGINE* WHAT COULD MAKE YOU THINK THAT, SIR.





BUT THIS TIME
WAS VERY
DIFFERENT.



...AND THEN HE
LOOKS AT THE
KID, RAISES THE
CROWBAR AND
SAYS...

"YOU'RE
SCARED? I HAVE
TO GO BACK
THROUGH THESE
CREEPY WOODS
ON MY OWN!"

HAHAHAHA!



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO YOU.

I'M NOT
YOUR FATHER,
JASON.

I DON'T
NEED TEENAGE
REBELLION.

WHATEVER.



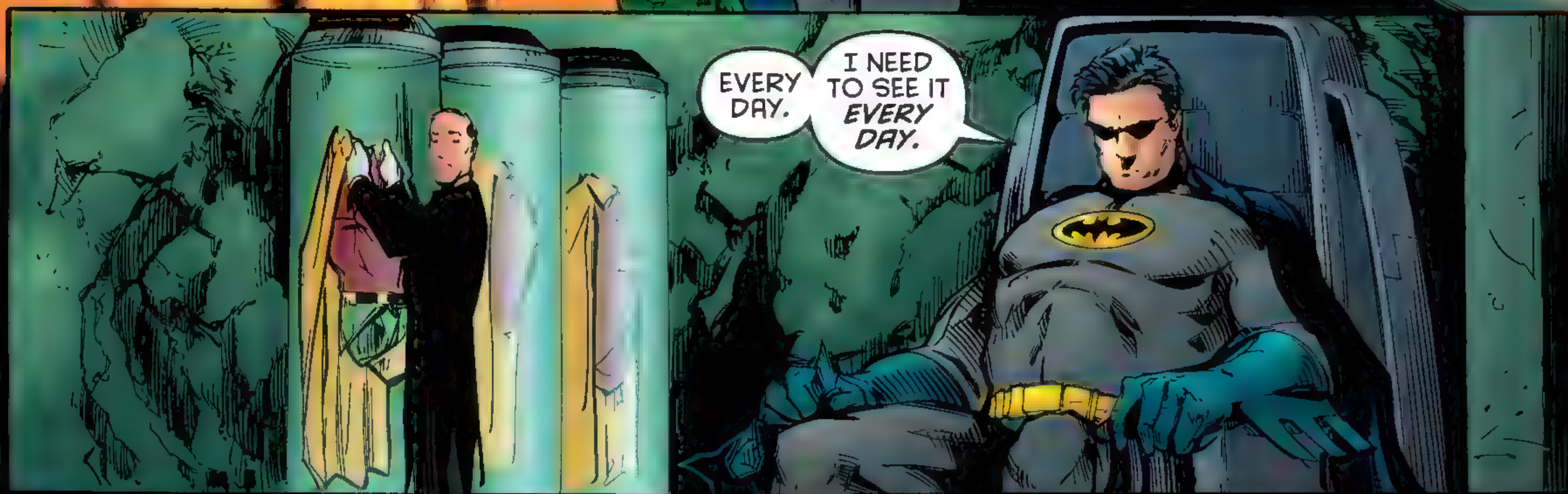
...I'M STILL
HERE AT THE
REFUGEE
CAMP.

HAVE YOU
HEARD
ANYTHING
FROM
JASON?

NO,
SIR, NOT
SINCE...
ODD.

MY WATCH
HAS STOPPED.





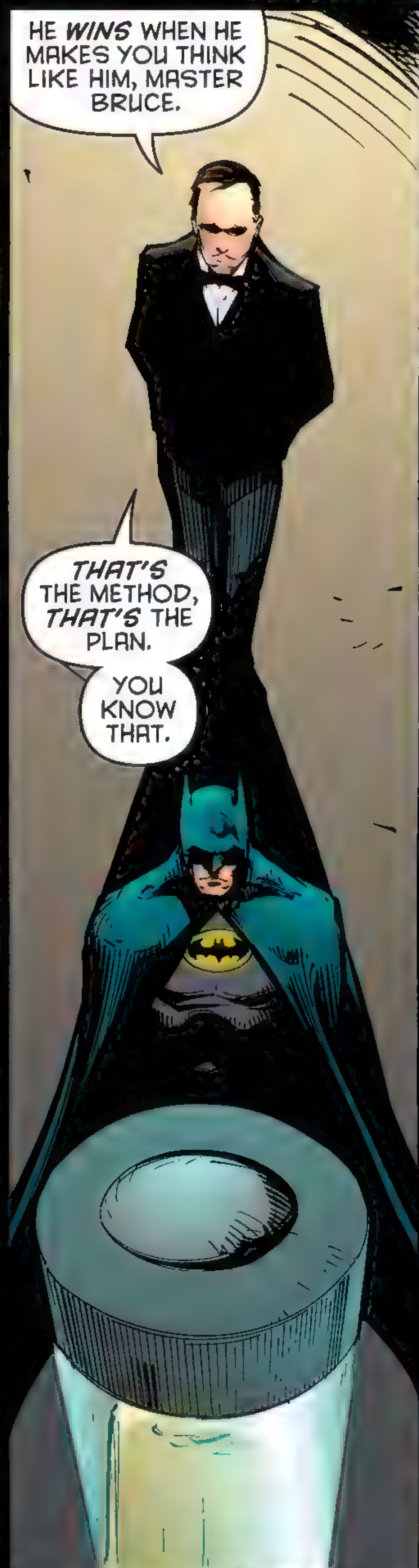


IT'S JUST WANTON CRUELTY.

JASON. BARBARA.

THERE'S NO METHOD, NO PLAN, NO WIT OR FINESSE TO ANY OF THIS, IS THERE?

I HAVE TO KILL THE JOKER.



HE *WINS* WHEN HE MAKES YOU THINK LIKE HIM, MASTER BRUCE.

THAT'S THE METHOD, THAT'S THE PLAN.

YOU KNOW THAT.



DID I SPEAK TOO SOON, MISTER SIMYAN?

THEY'RE CLAWING OUT THEIR OWN EYES!



SOMETHING I KEEP MEANING TO ASK, ALFRED.

WE WERE TALKING... IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO...

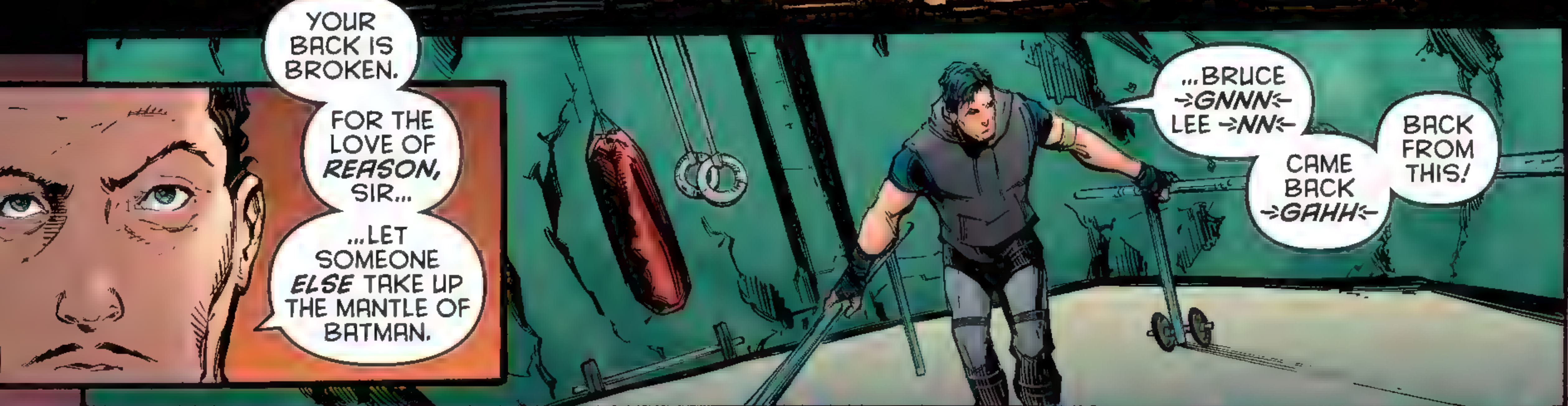
...THERE WAS A STORY YOU WROTE, OR A DREAM YOU HAD, WHERE I WAS NEVER BATMAN AND THINGS HAPPENED DIFFERENTLY.

SIR?





THERE.
WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
EXPERIENCE
THAT *AGAIN*?



YOUR
BACK IS
BROKEN.

FOR THE
LOVE OF
REASON,
SIR...

...LET
SOMEONE
ELSE TAKE UP
THE MANTLE OF
BATMAN.

...BRUCE
->GNN->
LEE ->NN->

CAME
BACK
->GAHH->

BACK
FROM
THIS!



I HELPED MAKE
YOU WHAT YOU
ARE, AZRAEL!

TAKE OFF THE
COSTUME!

OR SHALL WE
EXTRACT SOME
OTHER AGONIZING
MEMORY TO *FLAY*
YOU WITH?

SHALL I
REMIND YOU,
SIR, OF HOW
EASILY EVERYTHING
YOU MADE WAS
UNRAVELED BY A
CHAOS YOU COULD
NEVER HOPE TO
CONTAIN?

IF ONLY
YOU'D
LISTENED.



ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU *WANTED*, SIR?

A *WAR*?

WE BROUGHT GOTHAM BACK FROM THE BRINK OF AN *ABYSS* AFTER THE *EARTHQUAKE*.

WE *NEVER* GAVE UP.

ONLY BECAUSE FOR *YOU*...

... IT *NEVER* ENDS!

THOSE POOR *BOYS*, DRAGGED INTO YOUR MAD DREAM OF VENGEANCE, DEATH AND MADNESS.

WHEN WILL THE *ABSOLUTE FAILURE* OF YOUR MISSION TO DEFEND GOTHAM BECOME AS APPARENT TO *YOU* AS IT IS TO OTHERS?

I'VE
HEARD IT ALL
BEFORE.
SHOW
YOURSELF.

YOU'LL HAVE
TO *FORGIVE*
ME, MASTER
BRUCE.
THE LUMP
IS...IS
USING ME
TO SPEAK
THROUGH.

HOW CAN
YOU FIGHT
ME?
I AM *LIFE*
WITHOUT
FORM--I
HAVE NO
NERVES.
I *FEEL*
NO PAIN.

IN THE KINGDOM OF
PURE THOUGHT,
THE LUMP REIGNS
SUPREME!
IN YOUR *MIND*,
THE LUMP CAN
BE ANYTHING!

DO ANY-
THING!

YOUR
ENEMIES HAVE
OPERATIVES AND
TECHNOLOGY
BEYOND YOUR
CAPACITY.
THEY'RE
STEALING
YOUR *DNA*.

YOUR
MEMORIES.
TO *IMPRINT*
UNSTOPPABLE
SOLDIERS.
DRIVEN
BY YOUR
TRAUMA.

THEN TELL
THEM THEY
CAN *HAVE*
IT.
YOU
CAN
HAVE IT,
TOO.

IF YOU
CAN *BEAR*
IT ALL AT
ONCE.

WHAT

DO

YOU

DESERVE?

SO MUCH FOR
MOTIVATION!

THE PSYCHO-MERGE
IS *KILLING* THESE
WEAKLINGS!
HOW DOES
BATMAN PROCESS THIS
DEGREE OF STRESS?

AND HOW DO
YOU SUGGEST
WE *DISCONNECT*
OUR SO-CALLED
"NEW KIND OF
WEAPON"?

->RONNFF<-

I FEEL NOTHING.
I SHOULD KILL YOU NOW.

YOUR PURPOSE IS SERVED.

SOUL-KILLING SHELLS!

mml/b

THERE ARE STILL MEMORIES LEFT TO PROCESS.

READY?

BLAM
BLAM

AAAUGH

WHY?
I DID AS I WAS TOLD.

...MY BODY... DYING...

INTERESTING.

THE CHEMICALS I KEPT THINKING ABOUT... ARE SEDATIVES.

I CAN TASTE THEM.

I'M RESTRAINED SOMEWHERE.
UNCONSCIOUS.

I NEED YOU TO GET ME OUT.

...I...

...I THINK I'M DYING, SIR.

I'M SO SORRY.

NO, ALFRED IS ALIVE.

AND ALFRED IS ON MY SIDE.

I NEED YOUR HELP.

...IN LIFE... I'M IMMOBILE... USELESS...
...A LUMP...

IF I DIE, WE BOTH DIE.

IF I LIVE, YOU LIVE ON IN MY MEMORY, LUMP.

YOU KNOW ME NOW AS WELL AS ANYONE.

I'LL FIND THE MEN WHO KILLED YOU.

NEED A JOLT TO GET YOU MOVING?

OOT

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY.

WE JUST HAD TO STOP THE EMOTIONAL TRANSFER, THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL TELL THEM.

WE CAN SAVE THE CLONES AS CANNON FODDER.

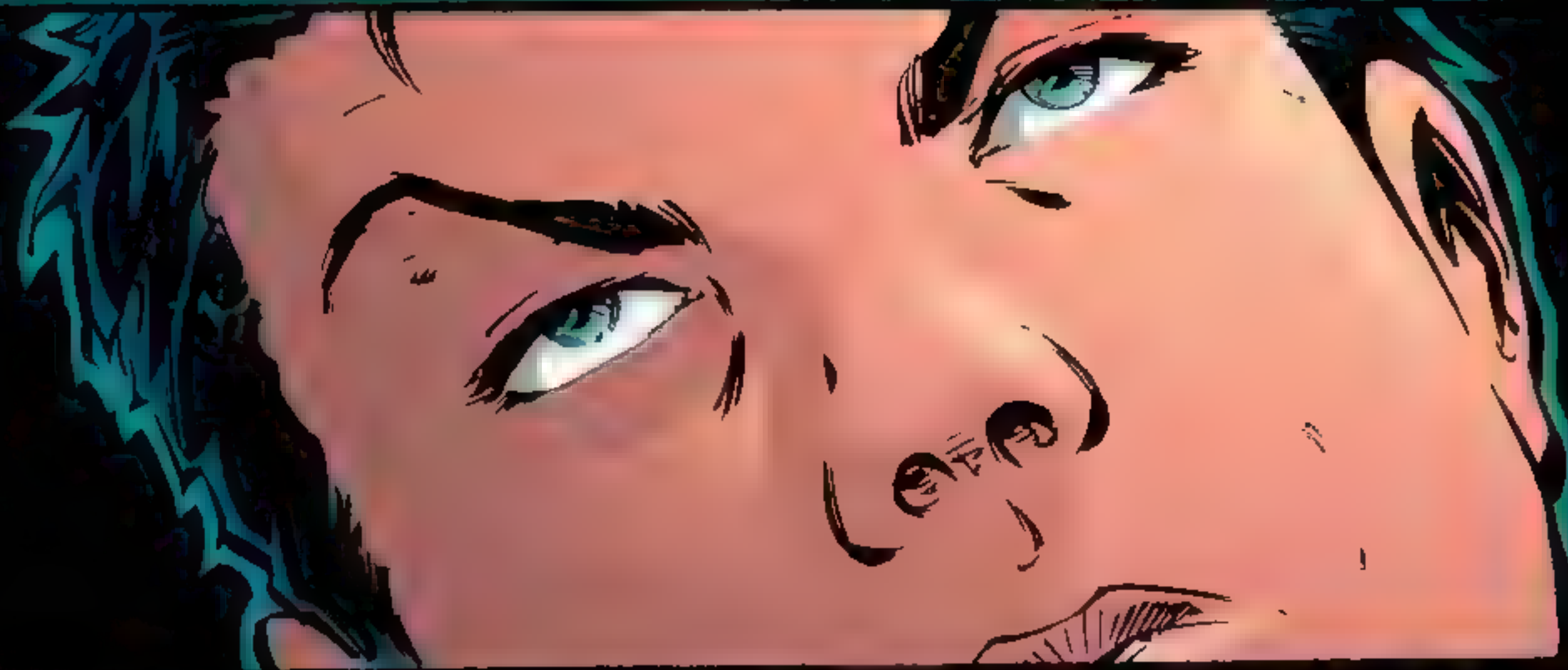


...IF YOU
FLINCH.

IF YOU
SHUDDER.

YOU WILL NOT
SURVIVE...

30th
DAY OF
THOGAL.



FATHER.

I IMAGINED
YOU TALLER.



zur en
arrh



LEAVE
HIS BELT!

LEAVE
EVERYTHING, SEAL
THE LABORATORY,
AND LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!

=HORRF=

WHAT KIND
OF MAN CAN TURN
EVEN HIS LIFE
MEMORIES INTO
A WEAPON?



...NONE OF IT'S TRUE, SIR, WE CAN PROVE THAT.

THE FELLOW IN THE CLOSE-UPS LOOKS NOTHING LIKE ME AT THAT AGE.

HE DRUGGED ME, BURIED ME ALIVE... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S WORSE?

THE BAT-COSTUME MY FATHER WORE TO THE MASQUERADE WENT WITH "DOCTOR HURT" TO THE BOTTOM OF GOTHAM RIVER.



AND THESE LIES, THESE SICK LIES.

HE SAID MY NEXT CASE WOULD BE MY LAST.

UNLESS I GAVE UP OR JOINED HIM.

AND YOUR REPLY, MASTER BRUCE?



BURN IN HELL.

I JUST GOT A CALL FROM THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

WHEN I GET BACK, WE'LL FIX EVERYTHING.



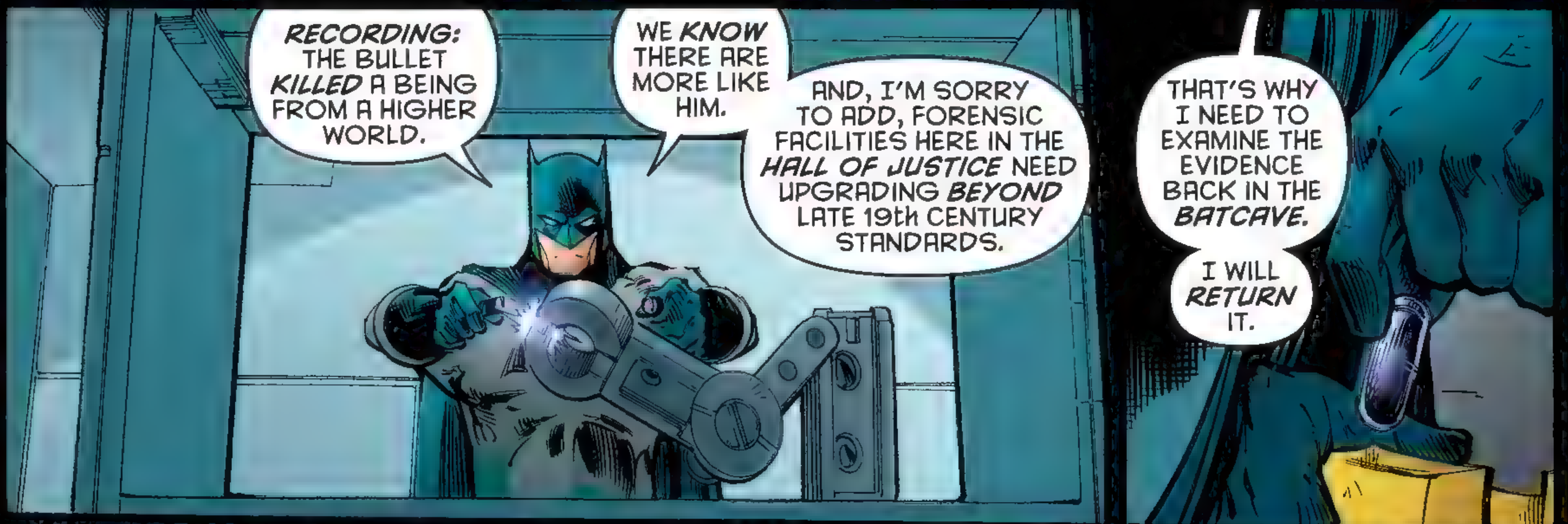
SIR.

WILL THAT BE ALL, SIR?



WHAT THEY'VE COME TO CALL "BATMAN'S LAST CASE" WAS, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, A MYSTERY WORTHY OF HIS EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS.

IT BEGAN WITH THE MURDER OF A GOD.



RECORDING:
THE BULLET
KILLED A BEING
FROM A HIGHER
WORLD.

WE KNOW
THERE ARE
MORE LIKE
HIM.

AND, I'M SORRY
TO ADD, FORENSIC
FACILITIES HERE IN THE
HALL OF JUSTICE NEED
UPGRADING *BEYOND*
LATE 19th CENTURY
STANDARDS.

THAT'S WHY
I NEED TO
EXAMINE THE
EVIDENCE
BACK IN THE
BATCAVE.

I WILL
RETURN
IT.



I DID *ONCE*
CONSIDER
RESIGNING FROM
MY POSITION IN
THE WAYNE
HOUSEHOLD.

HAAAAUUU

"IMMOBILE,"
YOU SAID!

KEEP IT AWAY
FROM THE
CONTROLS!

SIMYAN!

"I NEED A
DISGUISE," HE SAID
AND I THOUGHT HE'D
FINALLY GONE MAD WITH
GRIEF, ESPECIALLY
THOSE NEXT
WORDS...



haauuhhhh

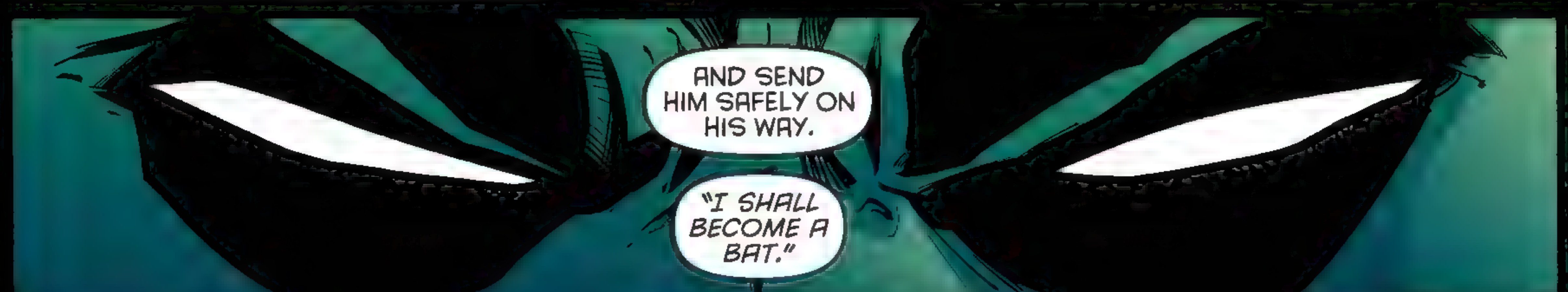
...BUT WHEN
I SAW WHAT HE
MEANT, WHEN I
WATCHED HOW HE
SURRENDERED
HIMSELF TO
AN IDEAL...



...HOW HE USED
EACH *ORDEAL*, EACH
HEARTACHE AND FAILURE,
TO BECOME A *BETTER*
MAN, IN THE SERVICE
OF OTHERS...

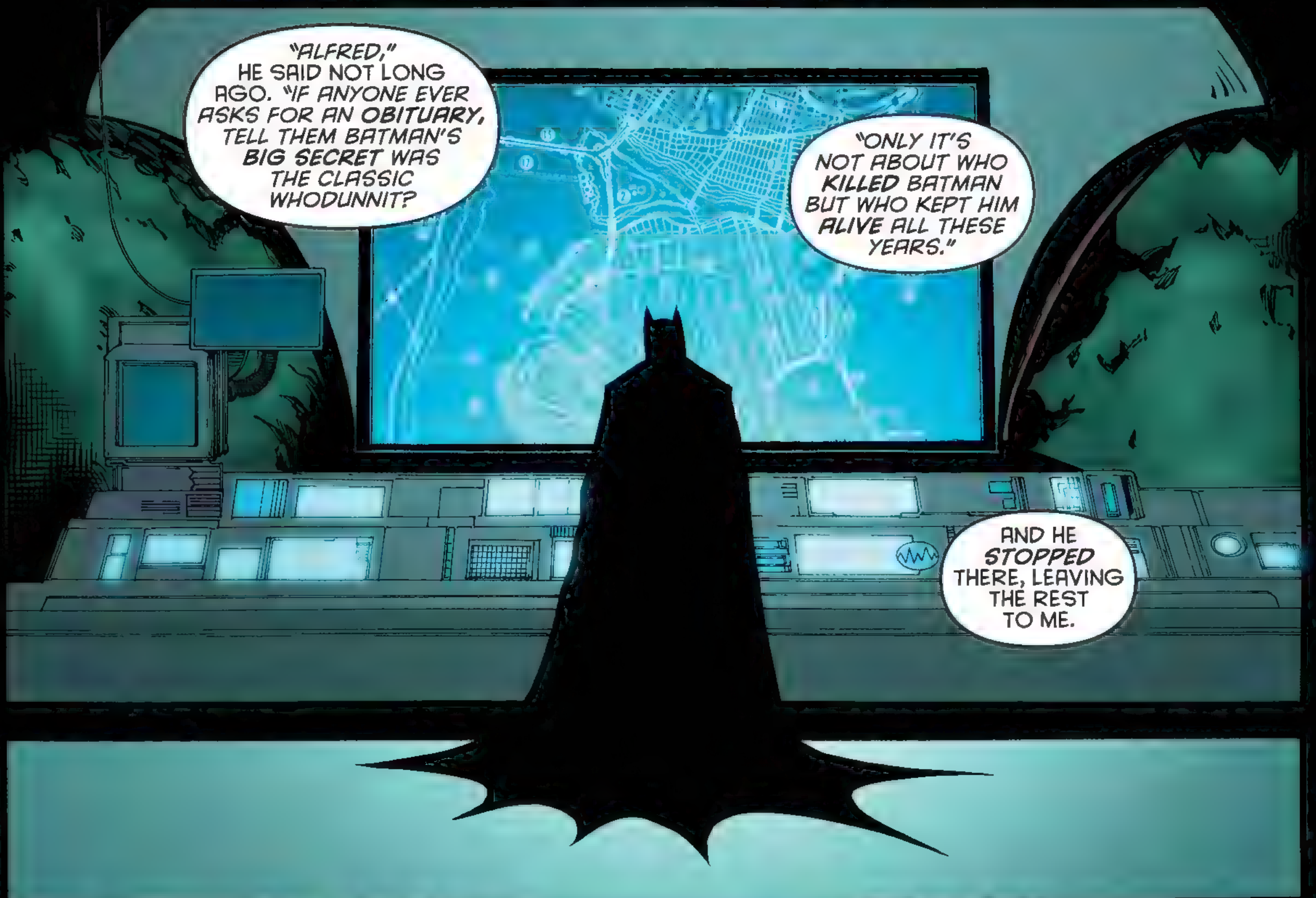
...WHAT COULD I
DO BUT STAND IN
HUMBLE *AWEP*?

AND KEEP
HIS WOUNDS
CLEAN AND HIS
UNIFORM
TIDY.



AND SEND
HIM SAFELY ON
HIS WAY.

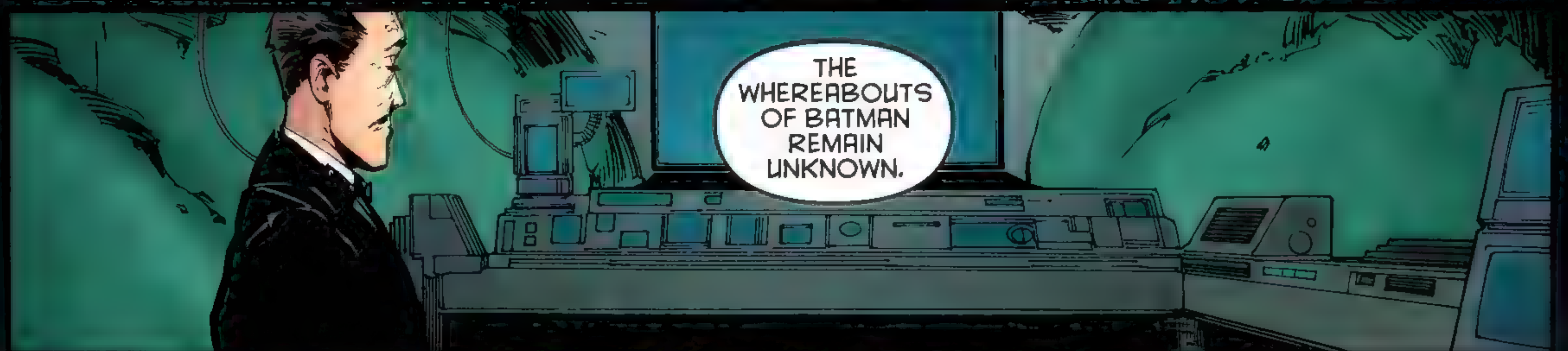
"I SHALL
BECOME A
BAT."



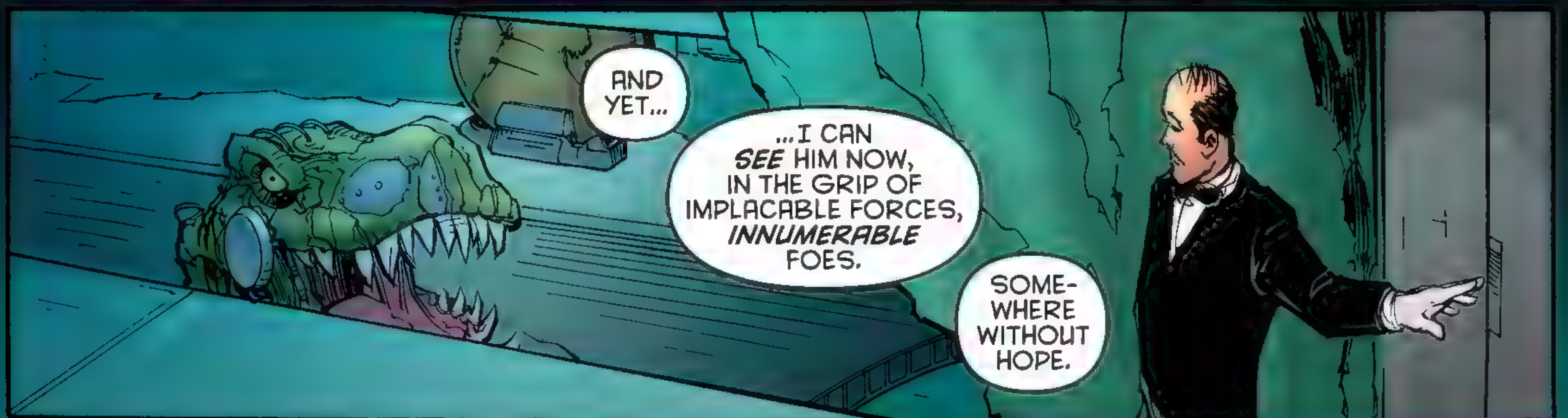
"ALFRED,"
HE SAID NOT LONG
AGO. "IF ANYONE EVER
ASKS FOR AN OBITUARY,
TELL THEM BATMAN'S
**BIG SECRET WAS
THE CLASSIC
WHODUNNIT?**

"ONLY IT'S
NOT ABOUT WHO
KILLED BATMAN
BUT WHO KEPT HIM
ALIVE ALL THESE
YEARS."

AND HE
STOPPED
THERE, LEAVING
THE REST
TO ME.



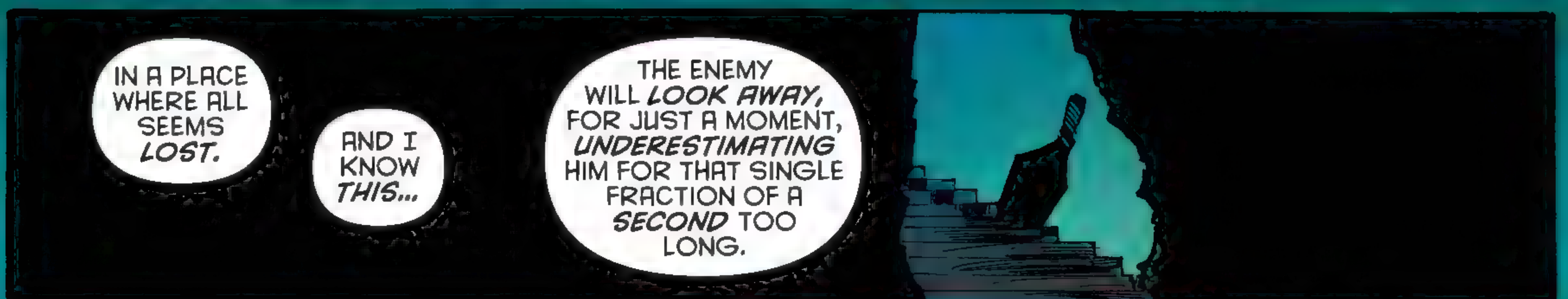
THE
WHEREABOUTS
OF BATMAN
REMAIN
UNKNOWN.



AND
YET...

...I CAN
SEE HIM NOW,
IN THE GRIP OF
IMPLACABLE FORCES,
INNUMERABLE
FOES.

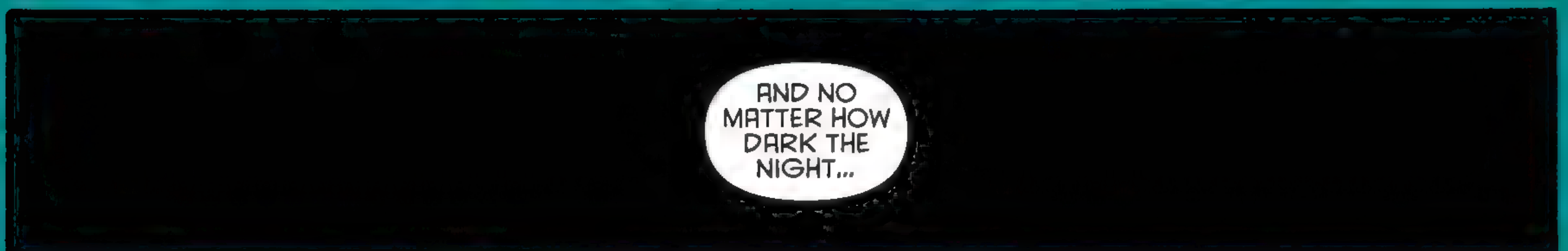
SOME-
WHERE
WITHOUT
HOPE.



IN A PLACE
WHERE ALL
SEEMS
LOST.

AND I
KNOW
THIS...

THE ENEMY
WILL **LOOK AWAY,**
FOR JUST A MOMENT,
UNDERESTIMATING
HIM FOR THAT SINGLE
FRACTION OF A
SECOND TOO
LONG.



AND NO
MATTER HOW
DARK THE
NIGHT...

...THERE
WILL BE NO
HIDING PLACE
FOR EVIL.





HOW TO MURDER THE EARTH

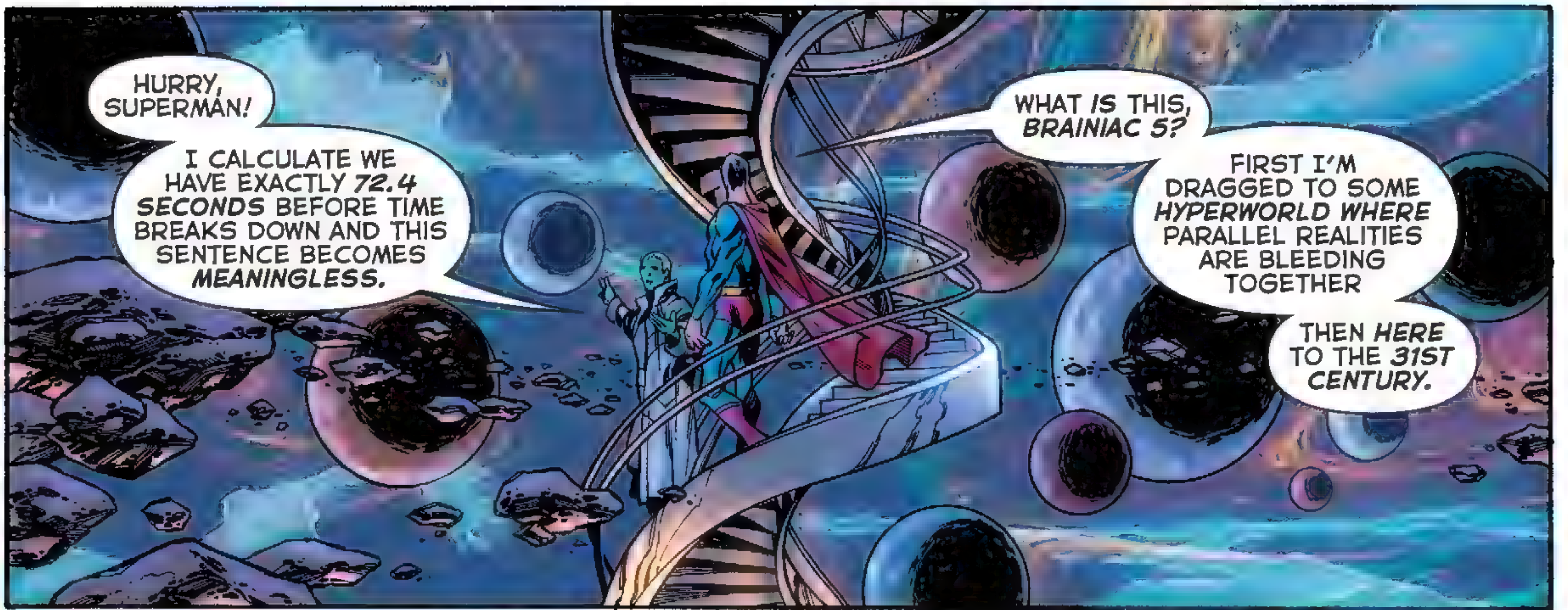
GRANT MORRISON
writer

**J.G. JONES, CARLOS PACHECO, DOUG MAHNKE,
MARCO RUDY, CHRISTIAN ALAMY
& JESUS MERINO**
artists

ALEX SINCLAIR & PETE PANTAZIS
colorists

ROB CLARK, JR.
letterer

J.G. JONES
cover artist



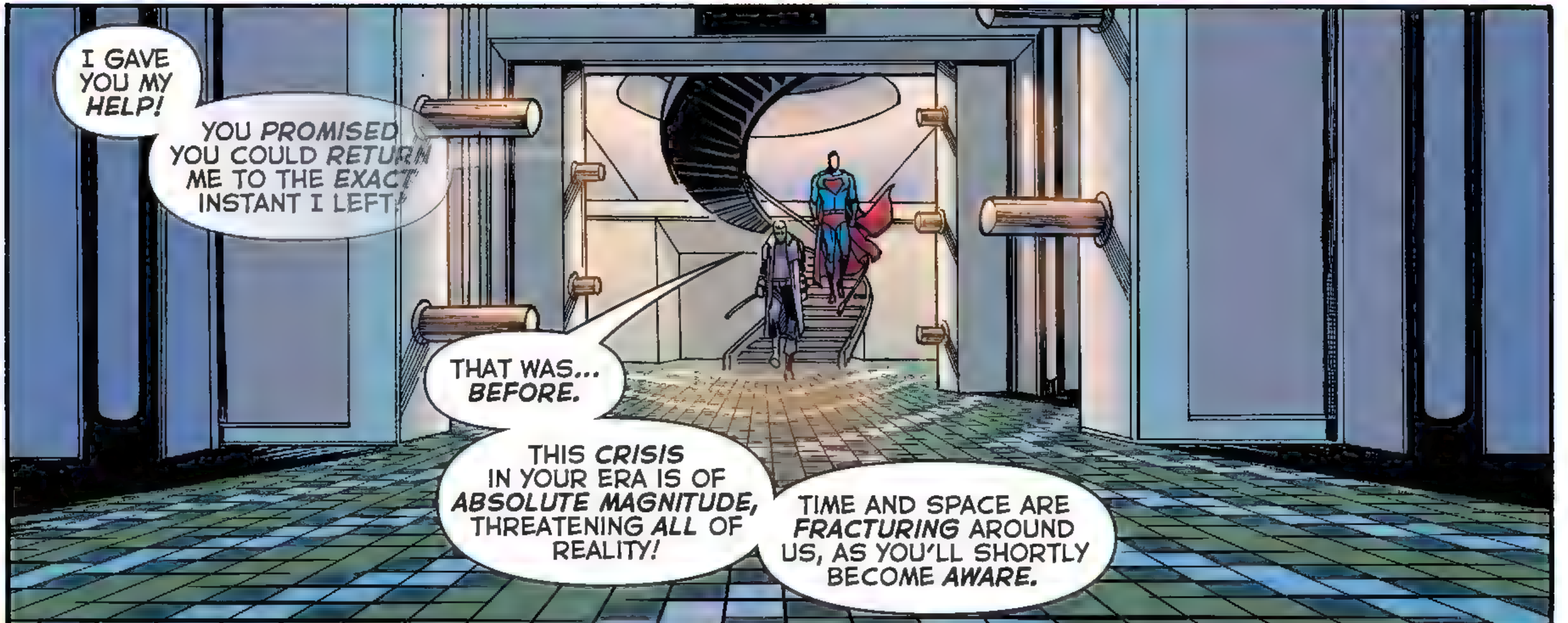
HURRY, SUPERMAN!

I CALCULATE WE HAVE EXACTLY 72.4 SECONDS BEFORE TIME BREAKS DOWN AND THIS SENTENCE BECOMES MEANINGLESS.

WHAT IS THIS, BRAINIAC 5?

FIRST I'M DRAGGED TO SOME HYPERWORLD WHERE PARALLEL REALITIES ARE BLEEDING TOGETHER

THEN HERE TO THE 31ST CENTURY.



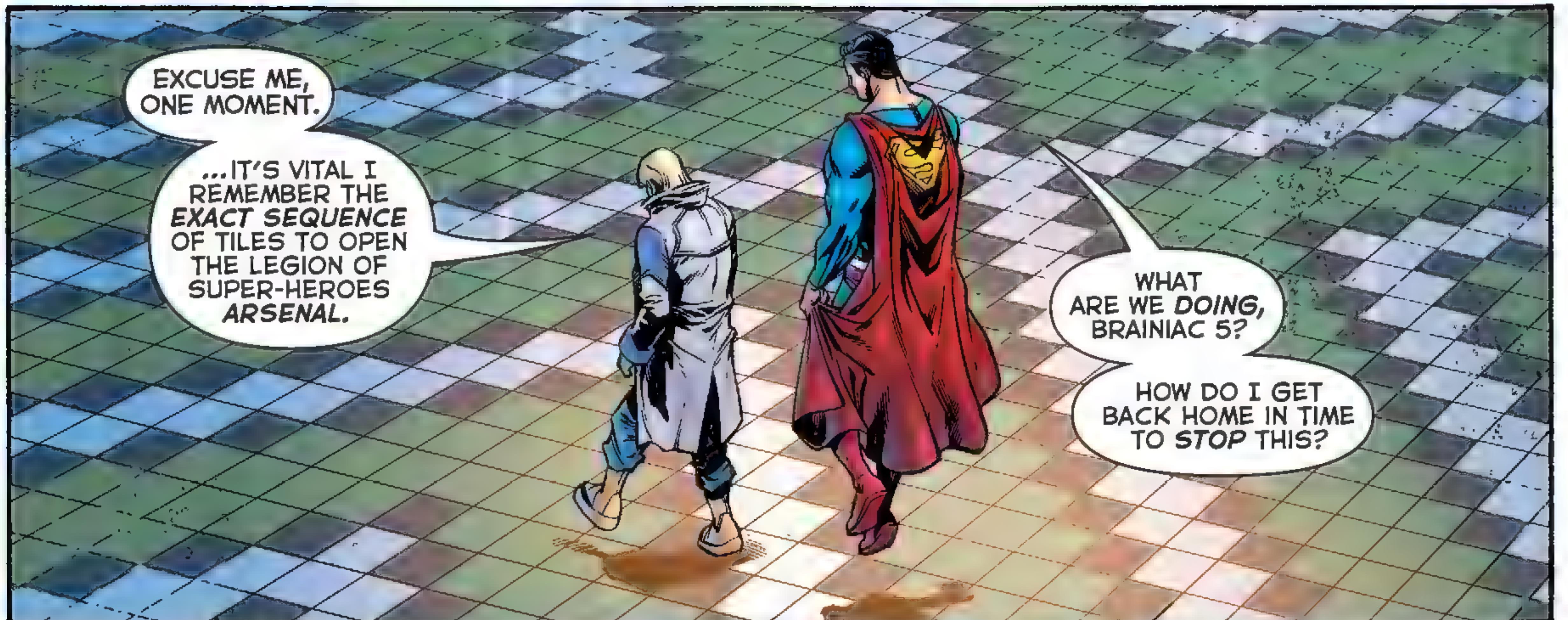
I GAVE YOU MY HELP!

YOU PROMISED YOU COULD RETURN ME TO THE EXACT INSTANT I LEFT!

THAT WAS... BEFORE.

THIS CRISIS IN YOUR ERA IS OF ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE, THREATENING ALL OF REALITY!

TIME AND SPACE ARE FRACTURING AROUND US, AS YOU'LL SHORTLY BECOME AWARE.

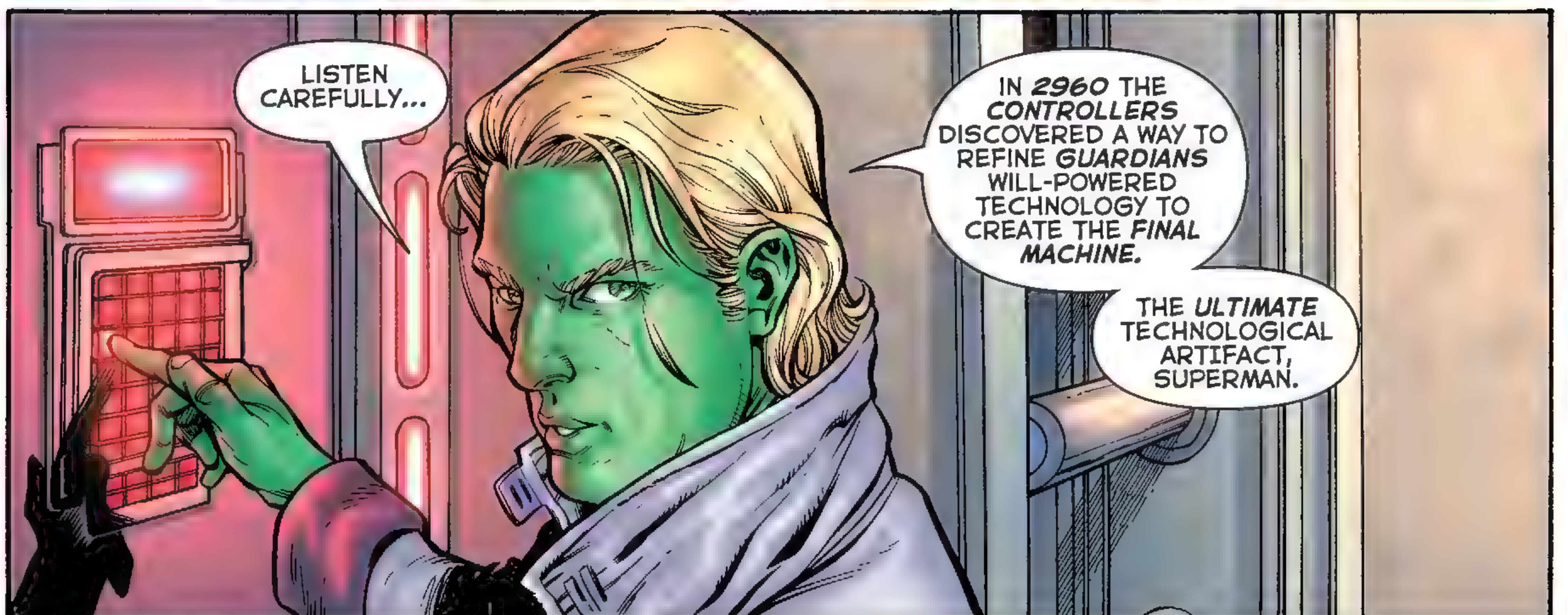


EXCUSE ME, ONE MOMENT.

...IT'S VITAL I REMEMBER THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF TILES TO OPEN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ARSENAL.

WHAT ARE WE DOING, BRAINIAC 5?

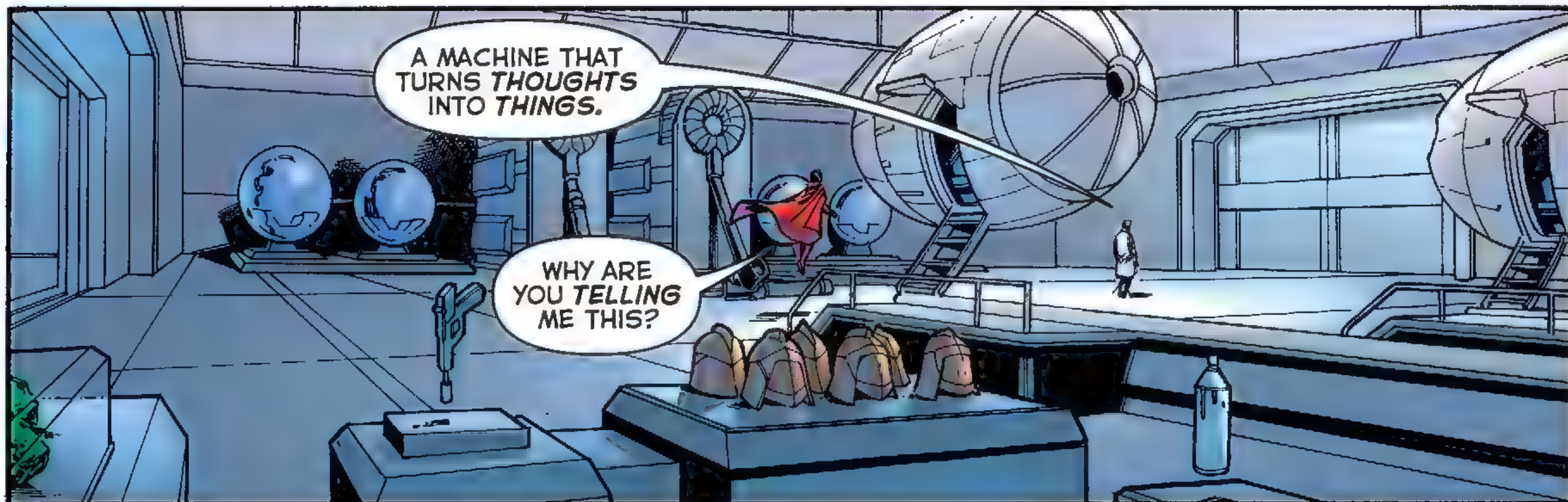
HOW DO I GET BACK HOME IN TIME TO STOP THIS?



LISTEN CAREFULLY...

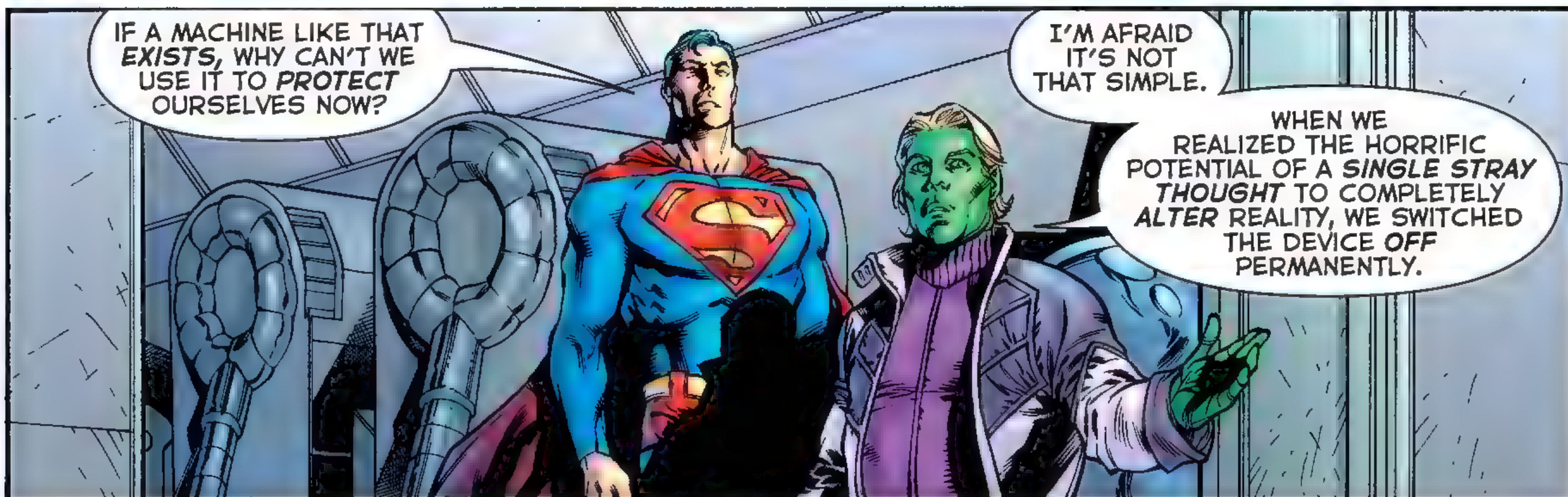
IN 2960 THE CONTROLLERS DISCOVERED A WAY TO REFINE GUARDIANS WILL-POWERED TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE THE FINAL MACHINE.

THE ULTIMATE TECHNOLOGICAL ARTIFACT, SUPERMAN.



A MACHINE THAT
TURNS *THOUGHTS*
INTO *THINGS*.

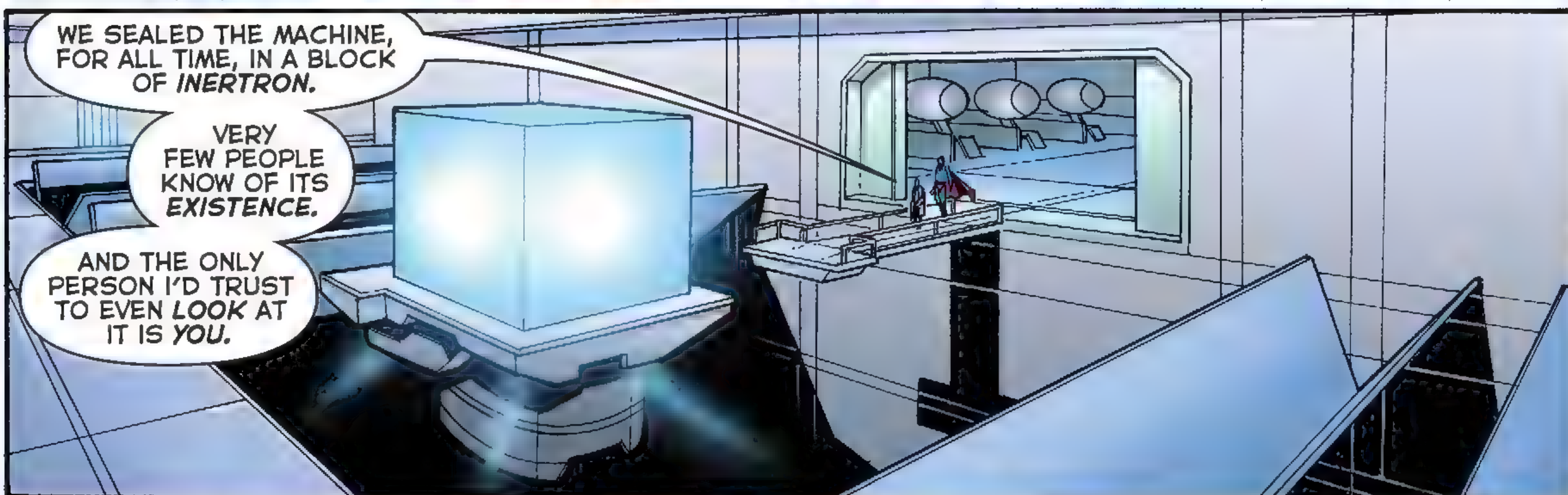
WHY ARE
YOU TELLING
ME THIS?



IF A MACHINE LIKE THAT
EXISTS, WHY CAN'T WE
USE IT TO *PROTECT*
OURSELVES NOW?

I'M AFRAID
IT'S NOT
THAT SIMPLE.

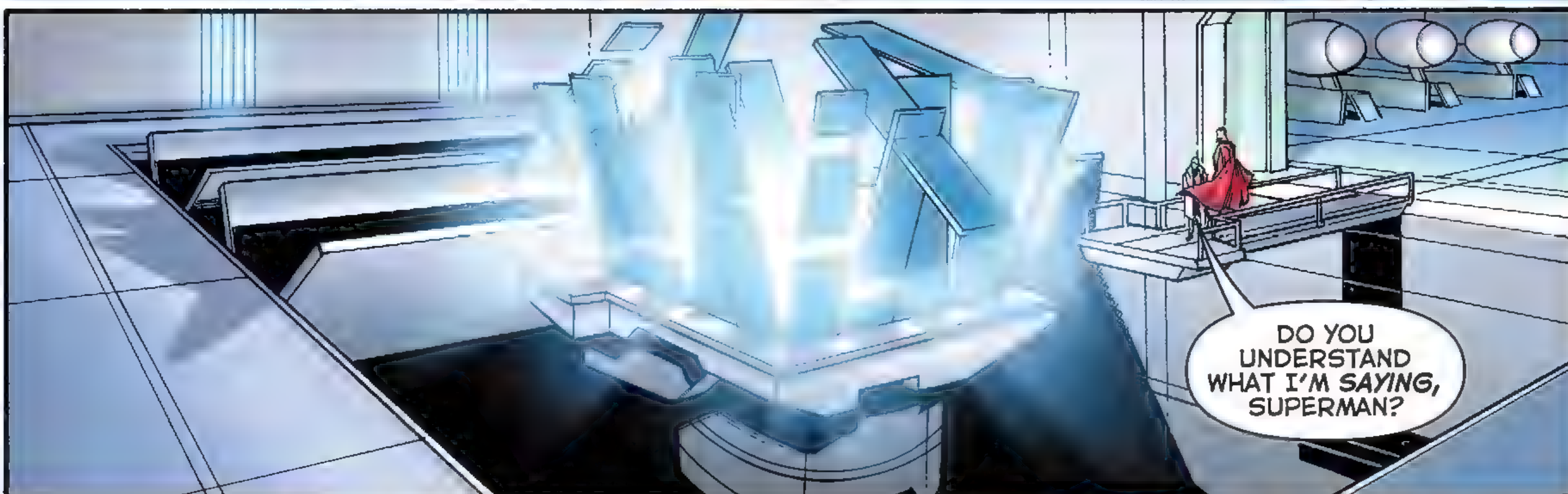
WHEN WE
REALIZED THE HORRIFIC
POTENTIAL OF A *SINGLE STRAY*
THOUGHT TO COMPLETELY
ALTER REALITY, WE SWITCHED
THE DEVICE OFF
PERMANENTLY.



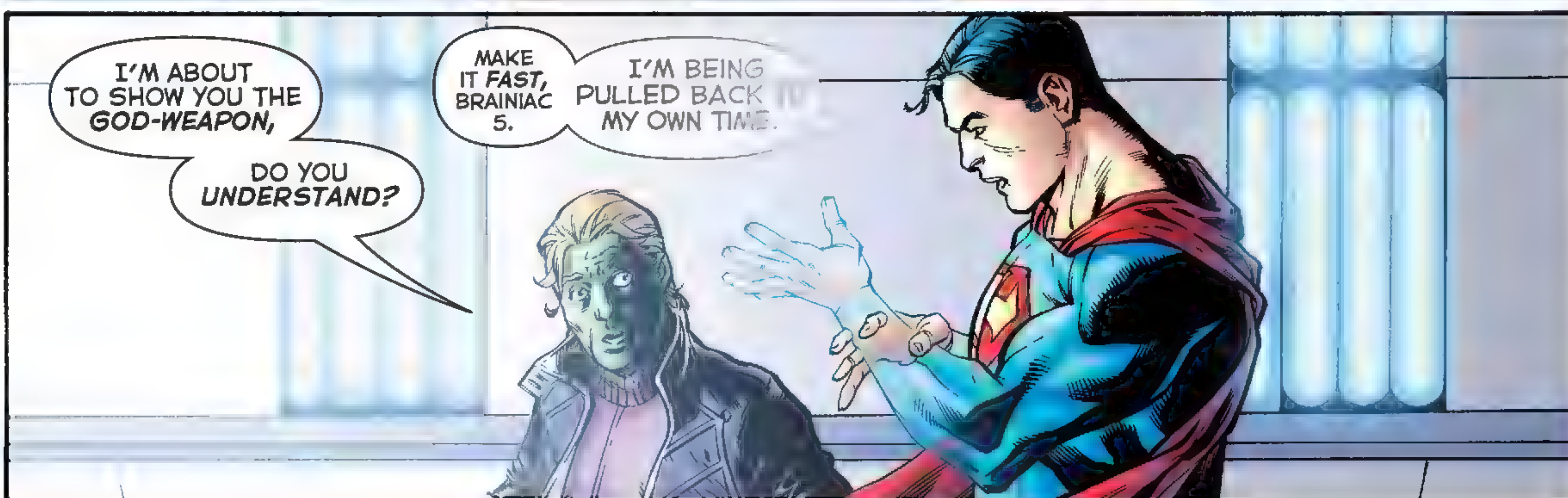
WE SEALED THE MACHINE,
FOR ALL TIME, IN A BLOCK
OF *INERTRON*.

VERY
FEW PEOPLE
KNOW OF ITS
EXISTENCE.

AND THE ONLY
PERSON I'D TRUST
TO EVEN LOOK AT
IT IS YOU.



DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M SAYING,
SUPERMAN?

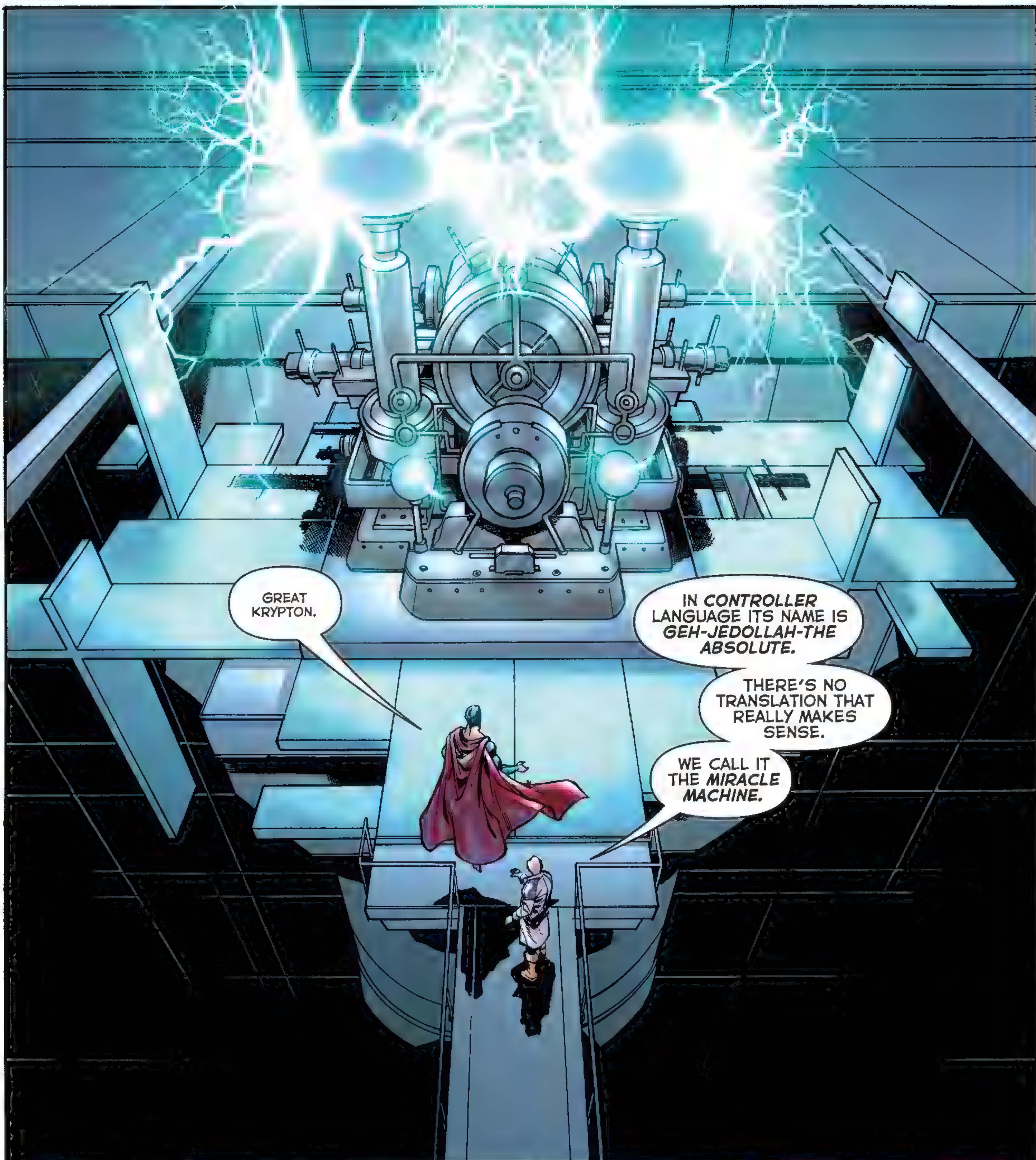


I'M ABOUT
TO SHOW YOU THE
GOD-WEAPON,

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

MAKE
IT *FAST*,
BRAINIAC
5.

I'M BEING
PULLED BACK BY
MY OWN TIME.

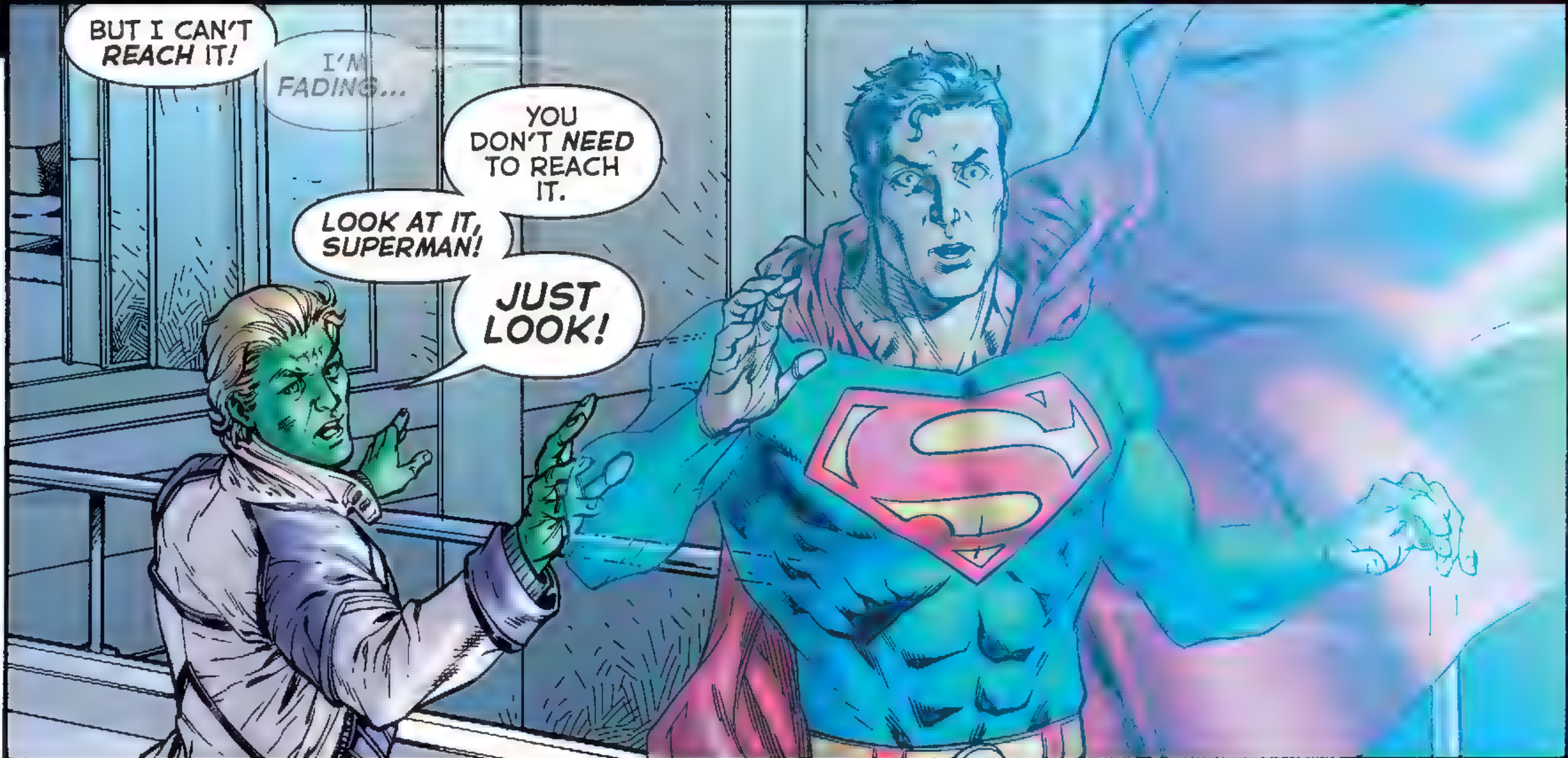


GREAT
KRYPTON.

IN CONTROLLER
LANGUAGE ITS NAME IS
GEH-JEDOLLAH-THE
ABSOLUTE.

THERE'S NO
TRANSLATION THAT
REALLY MAKES
SENSE.

WE CALL IT
THE *MIRACLE*
MACHINE.



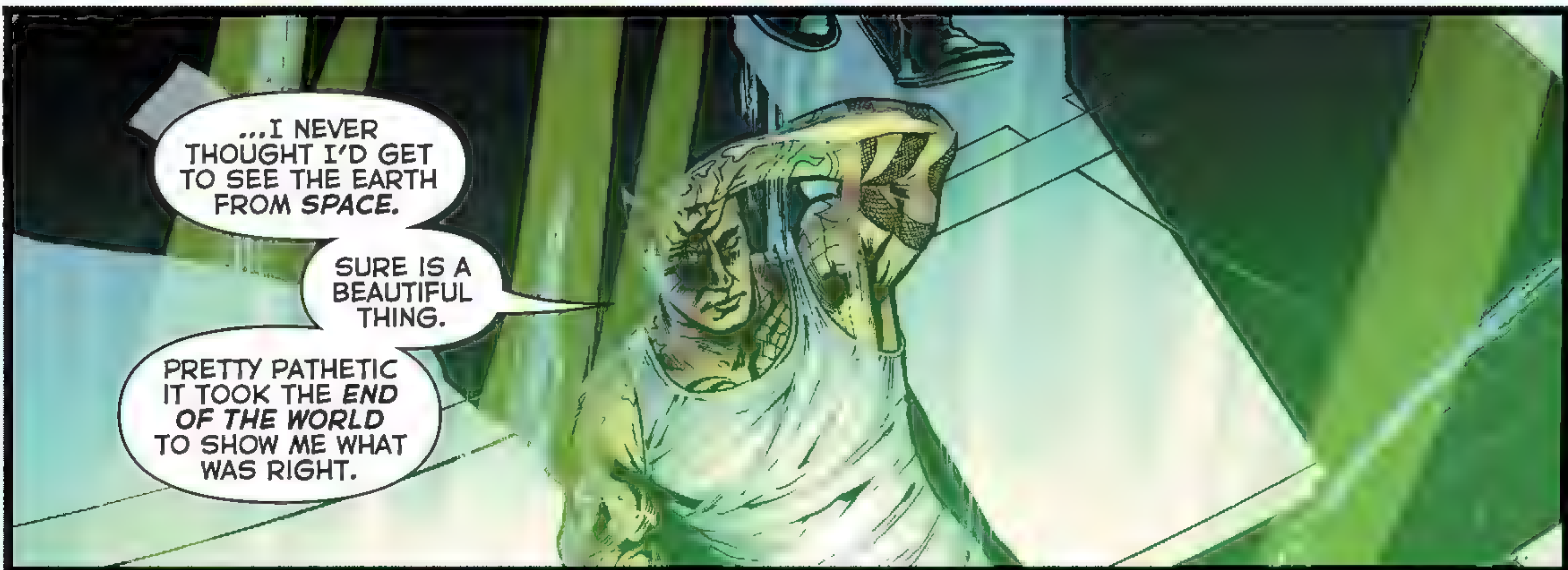
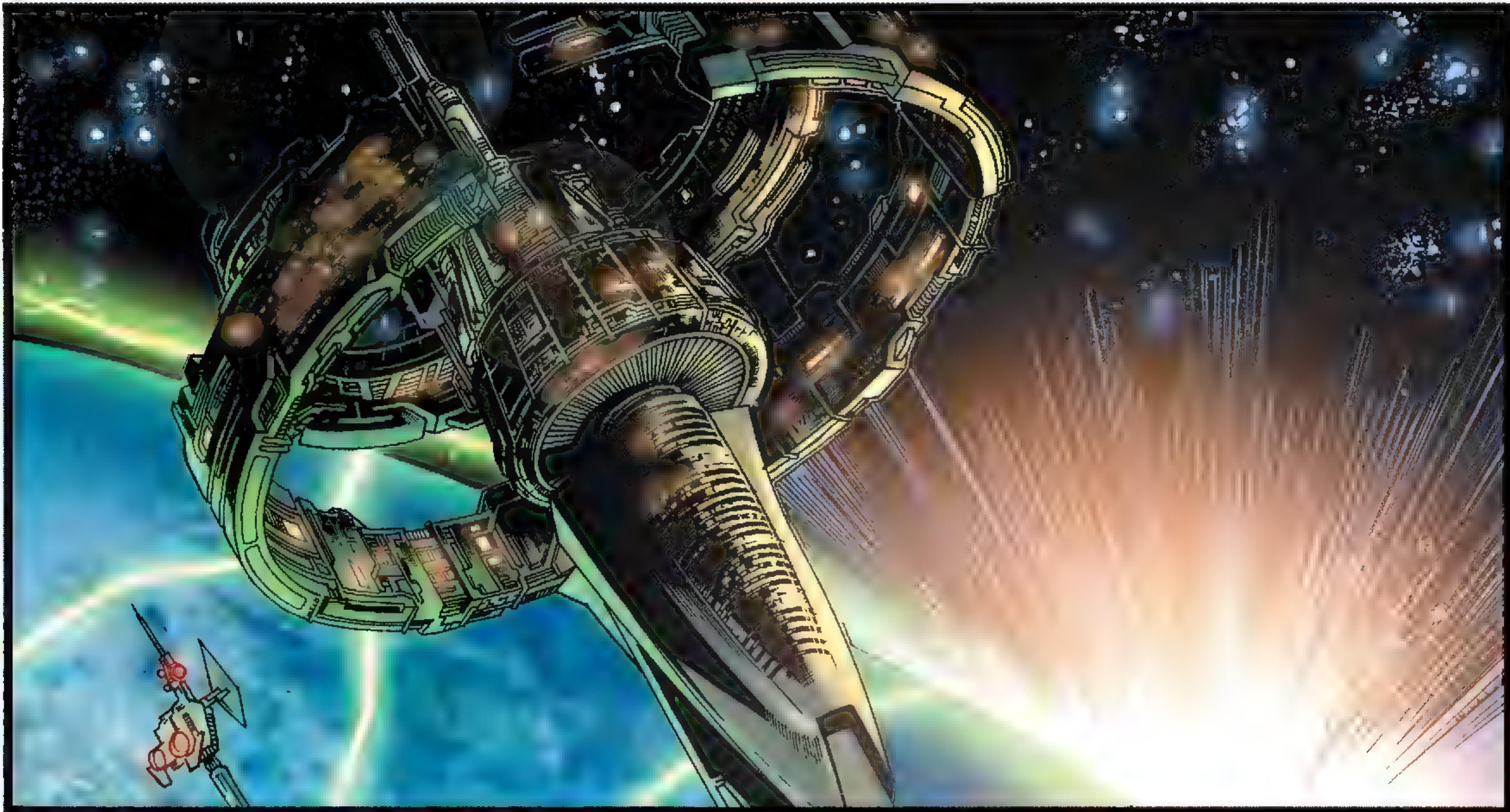
BUT I CAN'T
REACH IT!

I'M
FADING...

YOU
DON'T NEED
TO REACH
IT.

LOOK AT IT,
SUPERMAN!

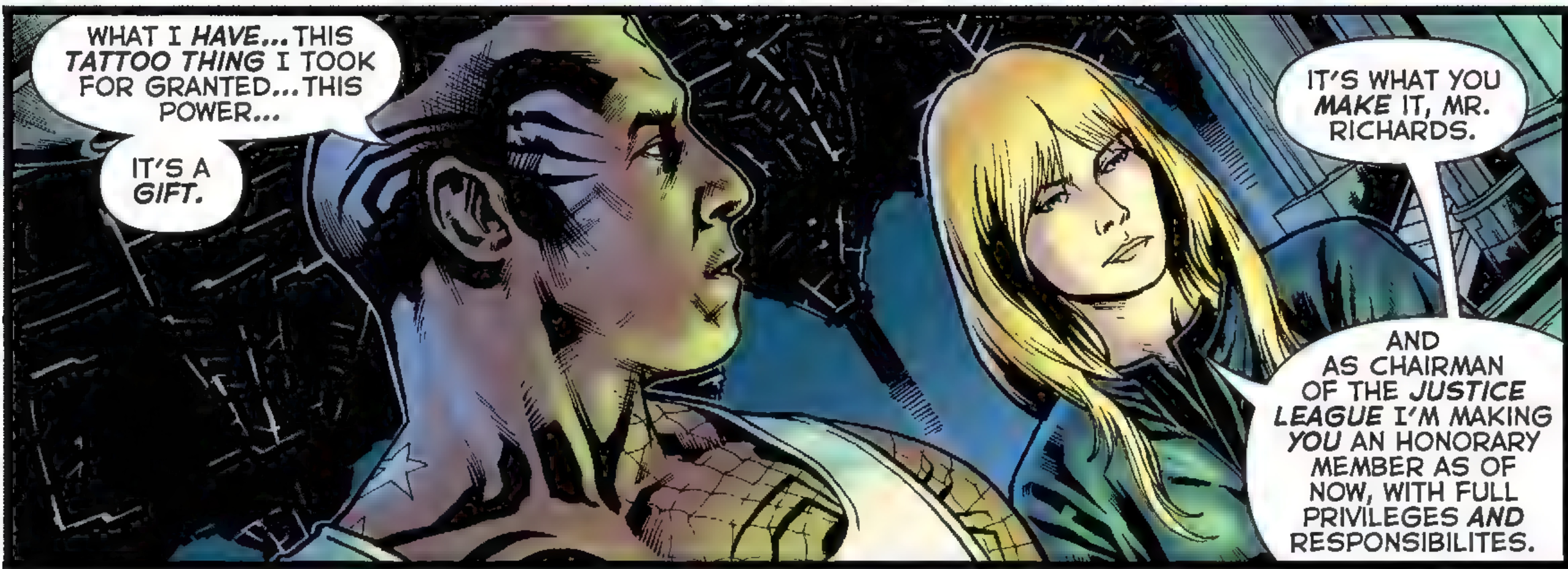
JUST
LOOK!



...I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D GET
TO SEE THE EARTH
FROM SPACE.

SURE IS A
BEAUTIFUL
THING.

PRETTY PATHETIC
IT TOOK THE **END**
OF THE WORLD
TO SHOW ME WHAT
WAS RIGHT.

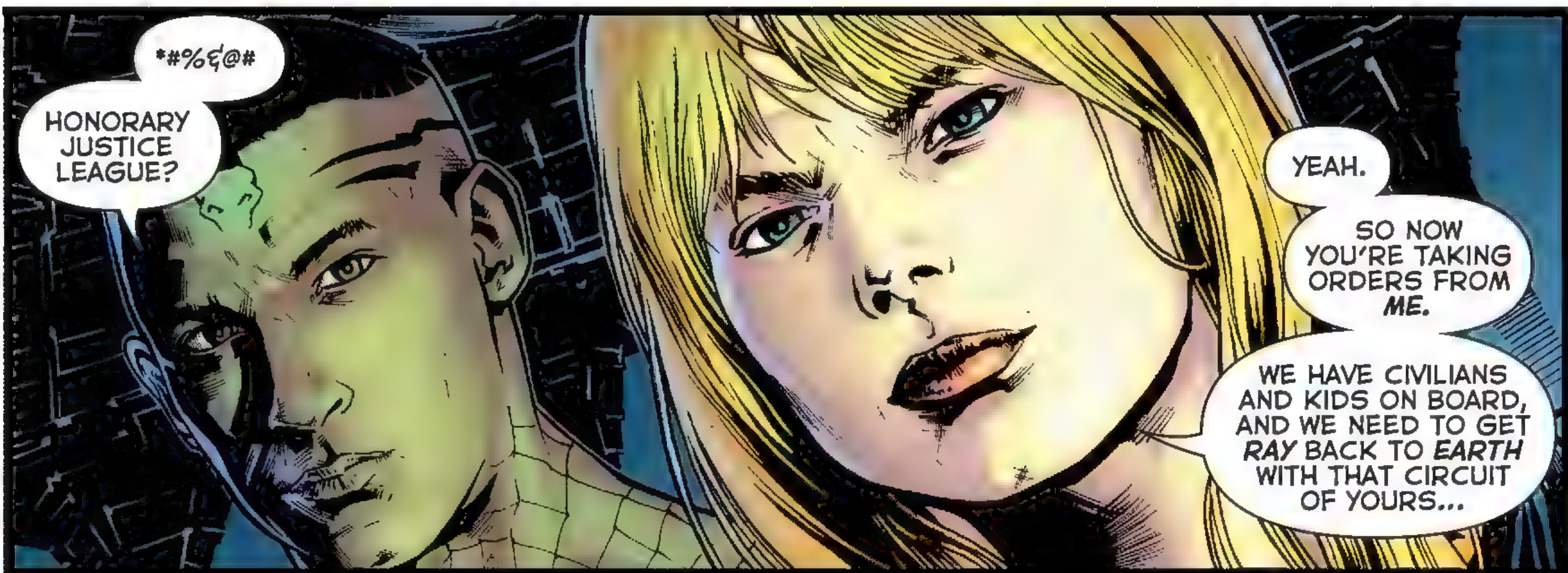


WHAT I HAVE... THIS
TATTOO THING I TOOK
FOR GRANTED... THIS
POWER...

IT'S A
GIFT.

IT'S WHAT YOU
MAKE IT, MR.
RICHARDS.

AND
AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE I'M MAKING
YOU AN HONORARY
MEMBER AS OF
NOW, WITH FULL
PRIVILEGES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES.



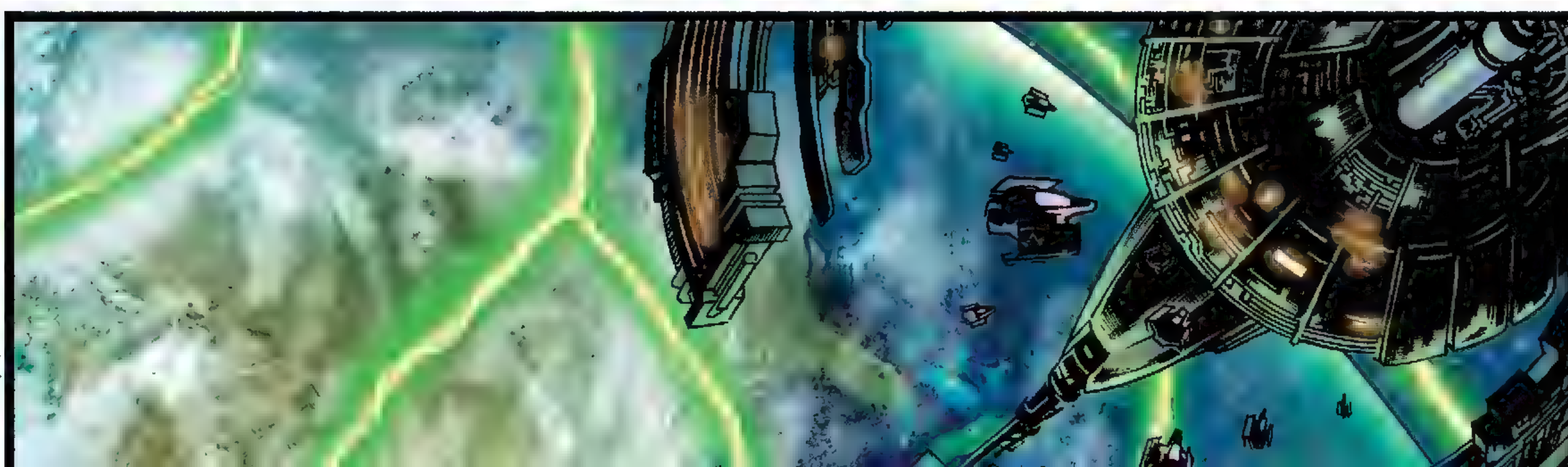
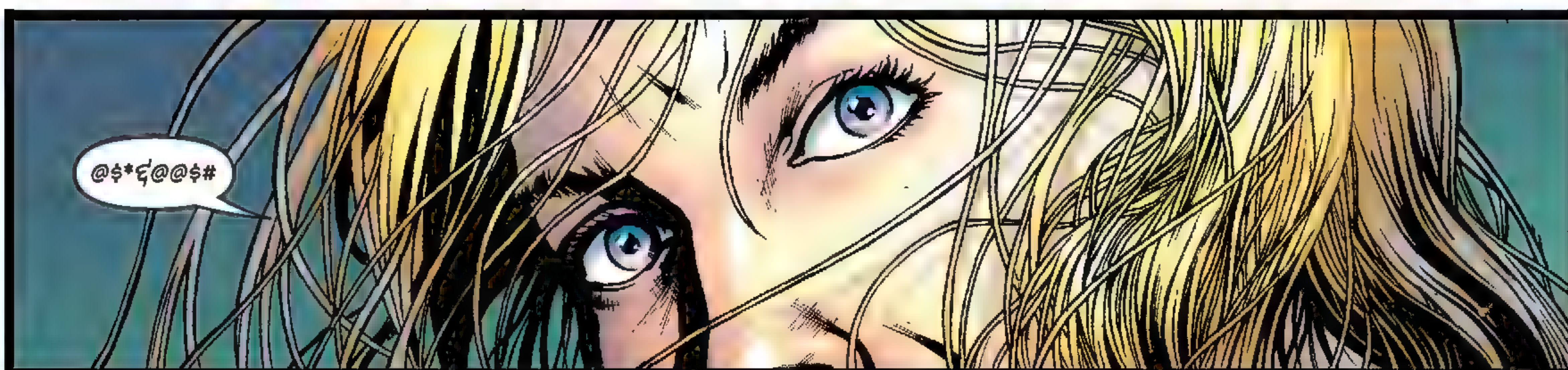
***%&@#

HONORARY
JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

YEAH.

SO NOW
YOU'RE TAKING
ORDERS FROM
ME.

WE HAVE CIVILIANS
AND KIDS ON BOARD,
AND WE NEED TO GET
RAY BACK TO EARTH
WITH THAT CIRCUIT
OF YOURS...



...OH,
SUPERGIRL.

YOU'RE
LOVING
THIS!



YUKK

HOW
YOU DOING,
HONEY?

WHAT IS THIS,
TYLER, "ROMEO
AND JULIET"?

SHUT UP
AND HOLD
THE LINE!

OUFF

SLUT.

GURRG

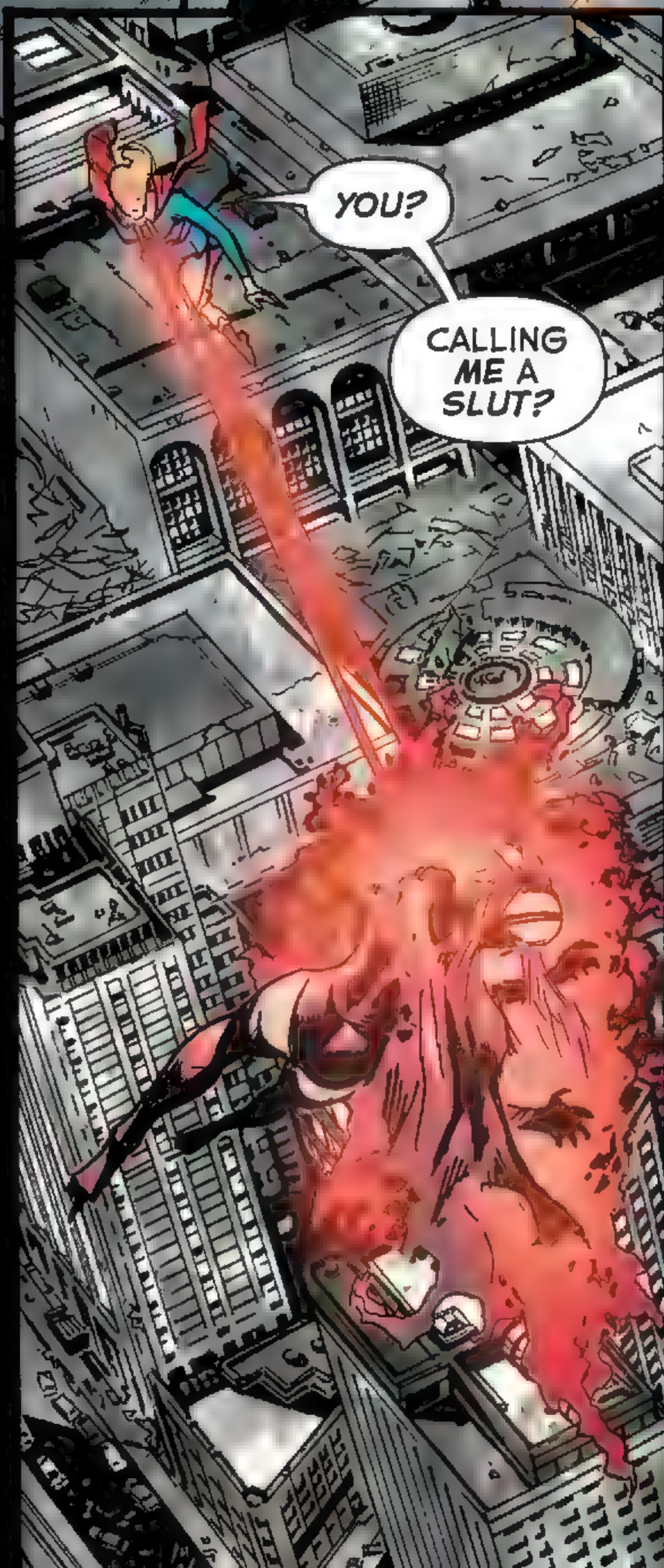
GOT ABOUT A
FULL HALF HOUR
MIRACLO JUICE
LEFT IN ME!

LOOKING
GOOD.

SUBMIT

GAZ-KRPP

GAZ-KRPP



YOU?

CALLING
ME A
SLUT?



NNRRRA

...POWERS...
FADE... MY
GODS ARE FAR,
FAR FROM
HERE... BUT
STILL I
HEAR...

...THE
VOICES OF
THE NEW
GODS...

...SNEERING...
SHRIEKING... OVER
AND OVER... IN
HER HEAD...



DESAAD!

WHAT
NAME IS
THIS?

LET
GO OF
ME!



KUKK!

LET
GO!



GNN

THAT'S
IT.
YOU
AND
ME!



TOGETHER!

GTT!



SUPERGIRL!

I HAVE
AN IDEA.

IT MIGHT TAKE THE
LAST OF MY MAGICAL
ENERGY BUT I THINK
I CAN STOP HER!



WHAT ARE YOU!

TELL KALIBAK BEFORE I SMASH OUT YOUR BRAINS!

RRNNN

...MY FRIENDS...

...MY FRIENDS, SIR... CALL ME "TAWKY"... KRRF...

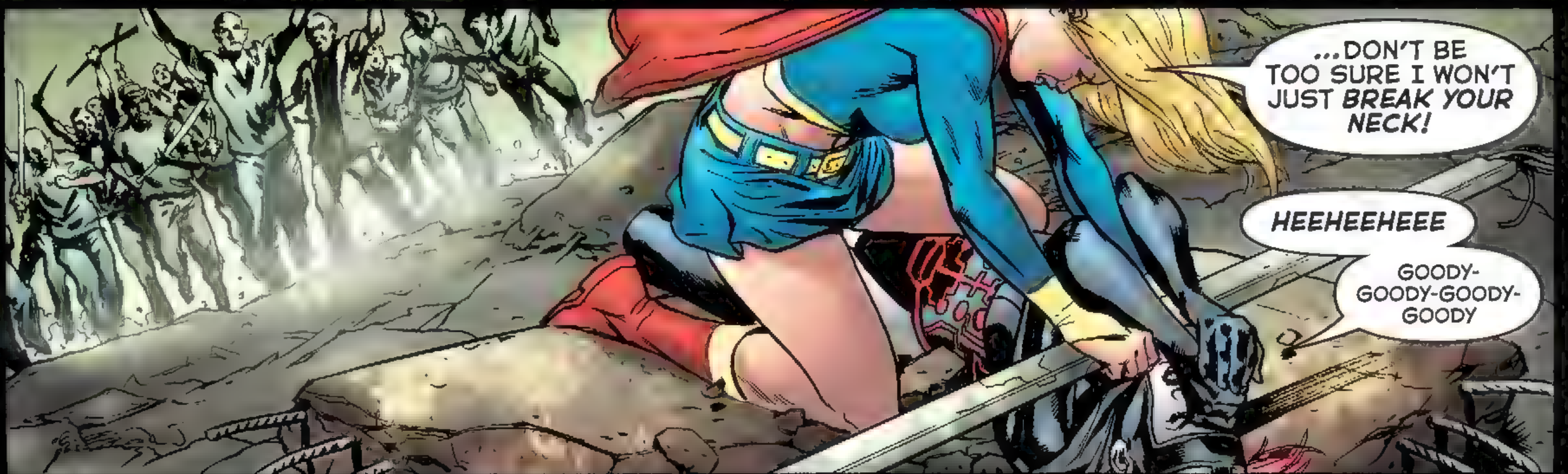
...MY NAME IN MY OWN TONGUE TRANSLATES AS... "TAWNY"...

...BUT DON'T...

...DON'T LET MY CULTURED TONES DECEIVE YOU...

TAWNY BITES!

AND KALIBAK IS A





I WILL
HURT YOU IF
I MUST.

SUPERGIRL!

LEAVE
THIS TO
ME!



YOU
AGAIN!

UH-HUH.

AND THIS TIME I'M
COUNTING ON MY MAGIC
LIGHTNING BEING
STRONG ENOUGH TO
TRANSFORM BOTH
OF US!

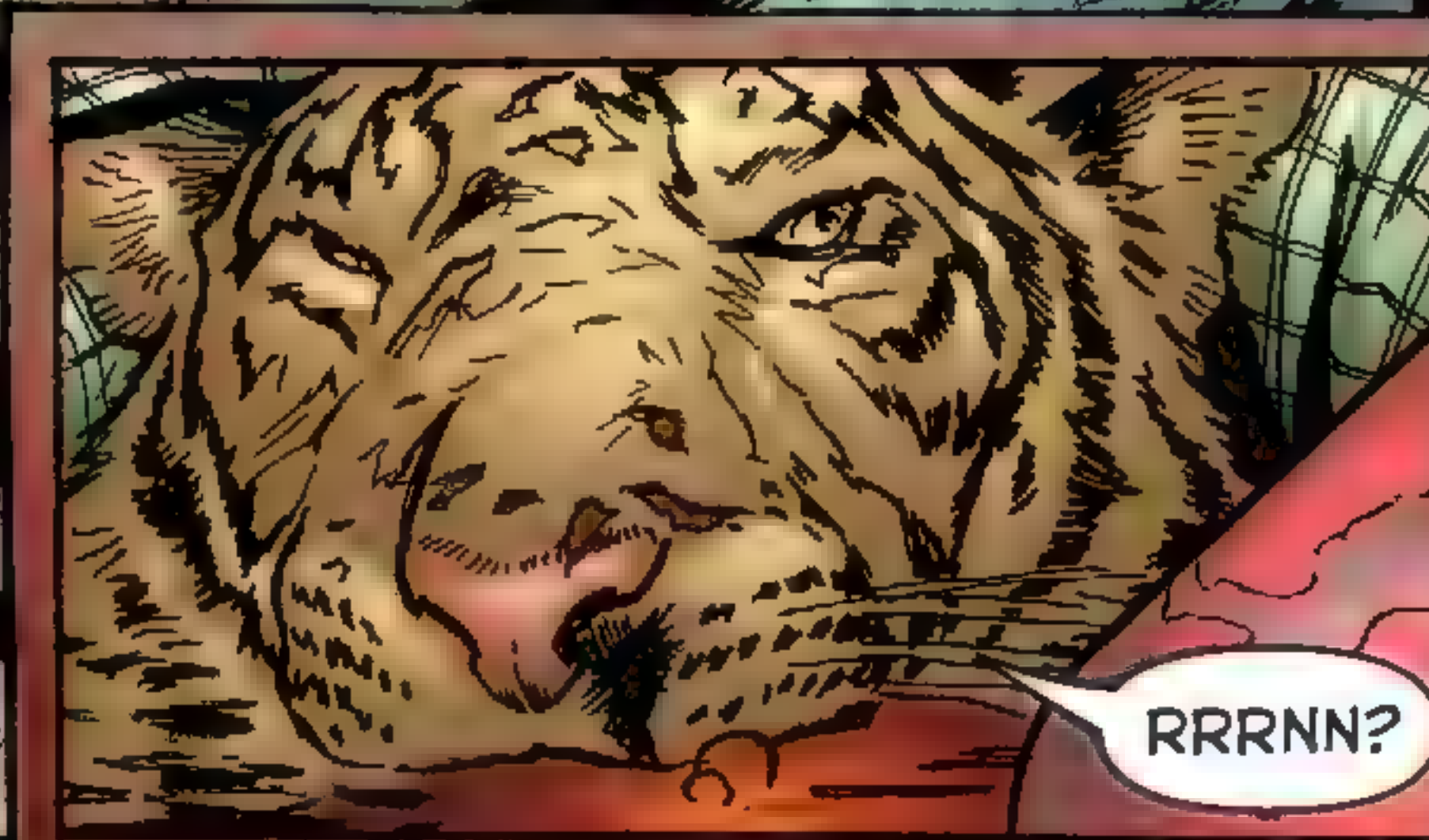
SHAZAM!



LOOK!

HAVE NO
FEAR!

DARKSEID
OWNS THE
LIGHTNING...



RRRNN?



CAWRRP

I
BEG TO
DIFFER.



HELP...

...HELP ME...

HELP

NO "HELP."

BE NOT STRONG.



HHHH

*



WHAT HAVE I DONE? OH NO, WHAT HAVE I DONE?

OH GOD, I DIDN'T MEAN THIS.

I DIDN'T MEAN ANY OF THIS.

SHH

IT WASN'T YOU. IT WASN'T YOU, MARY.



I CAN NEVER SAY IT AGAIN.

NEVER SAY THE WORD NEVER SAY IT EVER.



TELL 'EM WE SECURED THE BRIDGE, BRING UP THE...

...SECOND WAVE.

ALGO SE ACERCA

COMO EL SONIDO DE UNOS CABALLOS

...HURRN...
LEGENDARY TIGER
TEA, AS I WAS
SAYING.

CONFERS
THE STRENGTH
OF TEN.

AT LEAST
FOR...HRR...A
LITTLE WHILE.

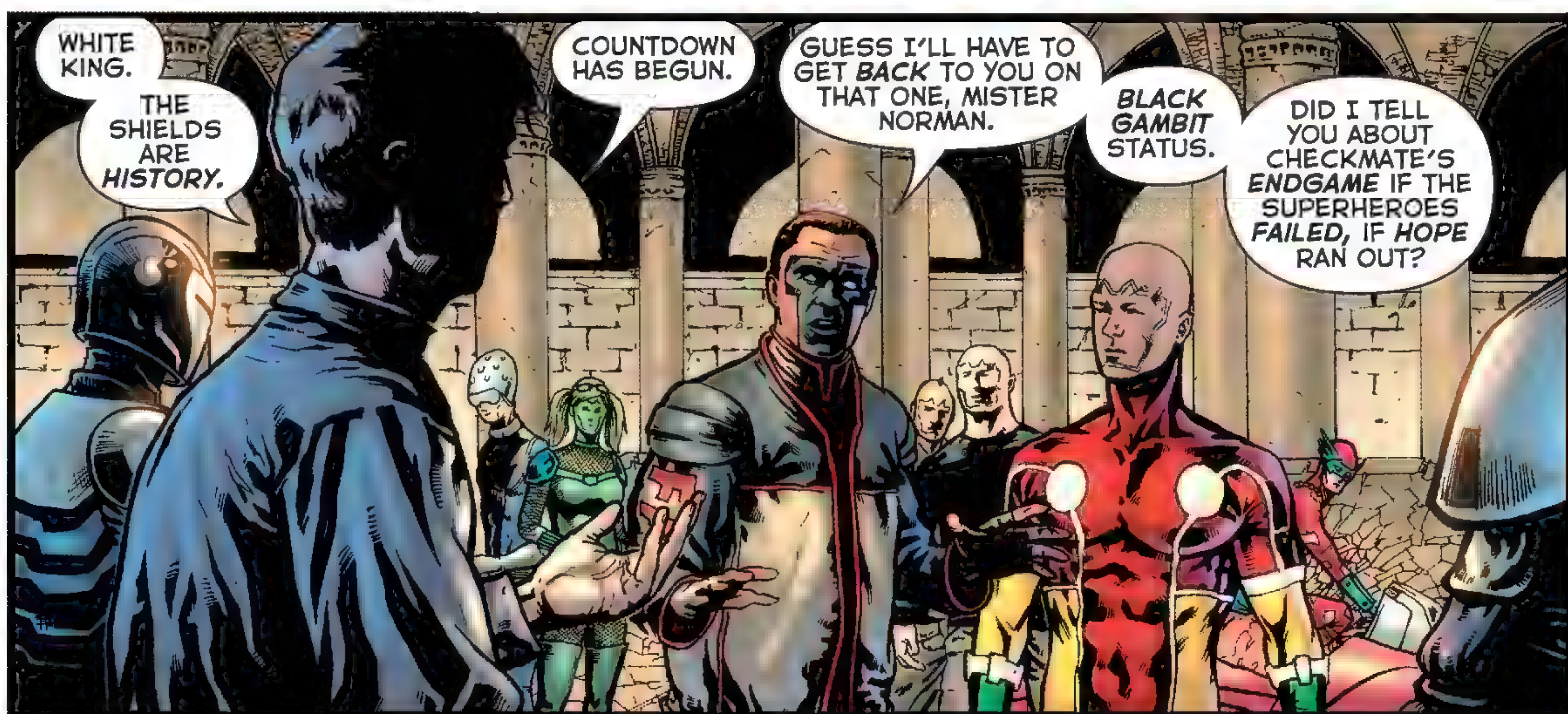
I'M SORRY
WE ALL HAD TO
MEET UNDER
SUCH APPALLING
CIRCUMSTANCES,
BUT...

HRRN

DO
YOUR WORST,
GENTLEMEN.

?







...SONNY.

MOTHER BOXXX SAYS YOU'RE FROM A... "LATERAL UNIVERSE"?

MOTHERBOXXX KNOWS TOO MUCH.

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL IT.

SONNY SUMO WENT BACK IN TIME AND DIED A HAPPY MAN IN FEUDAL JAPAN.

I STUMBLED THROUGH A HOLE IN MY LIFE, INTO HIS LIFE.

WITH THE END OF THE WORLD AT MY HEELS.

YOU WERE SENT HERE, SONNY.

ME, I DON'T GENERALLY GET INTO FIGHTS...

WE HAVE NEVER BEEN IN A FIGHT EITHER.

MOST OF OUR POWERS ARE COSMETIC!

THIS IS IT!

YOU HAVE TO TELL AQUAZON HOW MUCH I LOVE HER, KEIGO.

TELL HER I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HER, LIKE THE TREE LOVES TO GROW, LIKE THE SUN LOVES THE DAY...

DOOMSDAY IS COMING, TEN MINUTES TOPS!

TELL HER YOURSELF.

MAKE A DATE.

OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE.

I CAN'T SEEM TO TELL SONIC LIGHTNING FLASH HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM.

I'M STILL TOO SHY!

WAIT UNTIL WE'VE SAVED THE WORLD!

THEN TELL HIM!

SO, TEAM...

LANTERN BOY, YOU GOT THAT RAY THING COMING OUT OF YOUR CHEST.

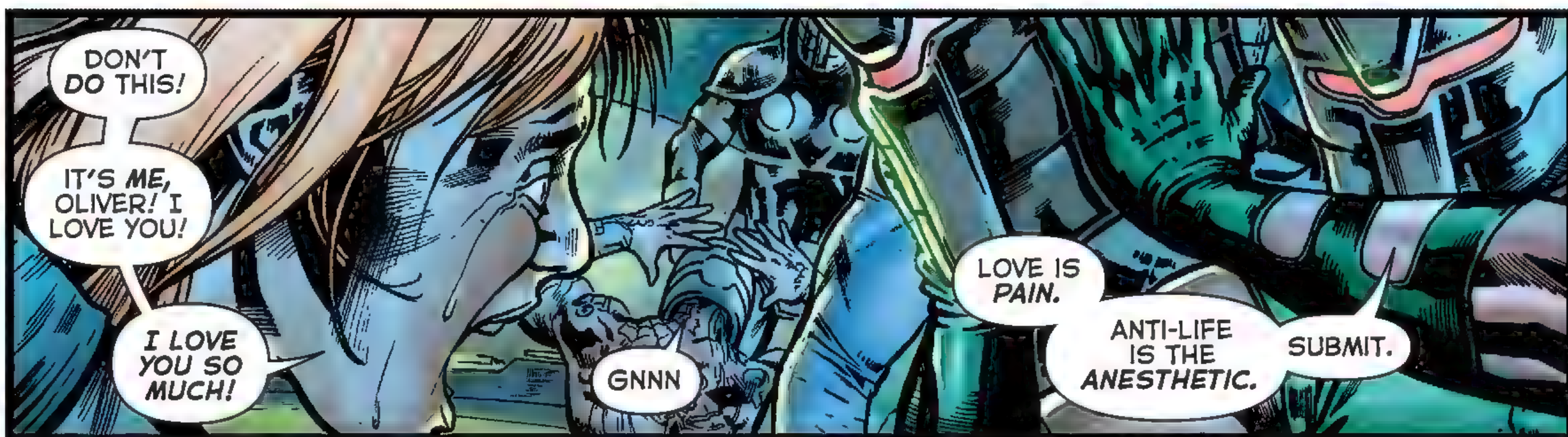
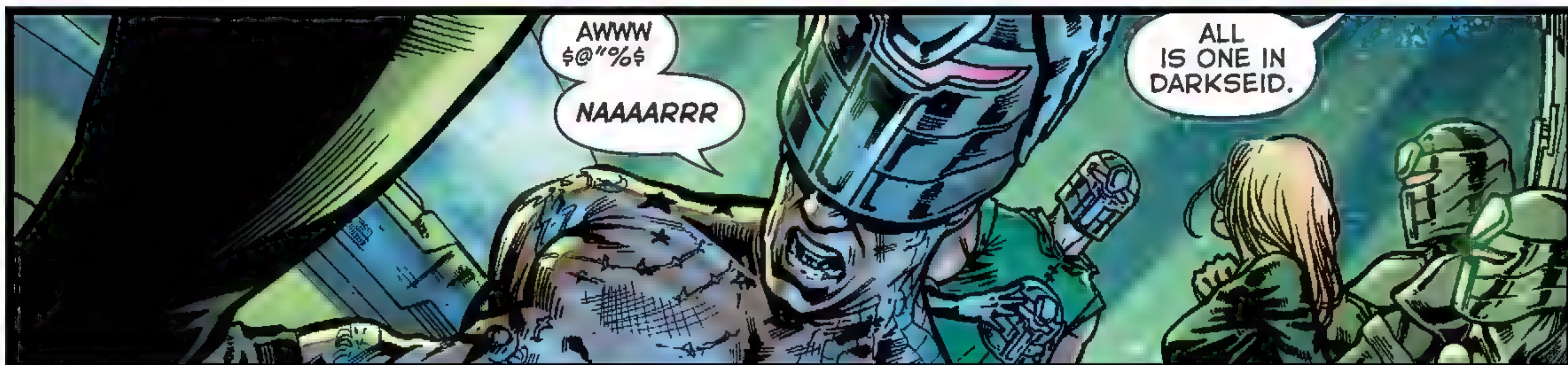
YOU CAN SCREAM YOURSELF RAW, YOU CAN SWIM LIKE A ***@##!

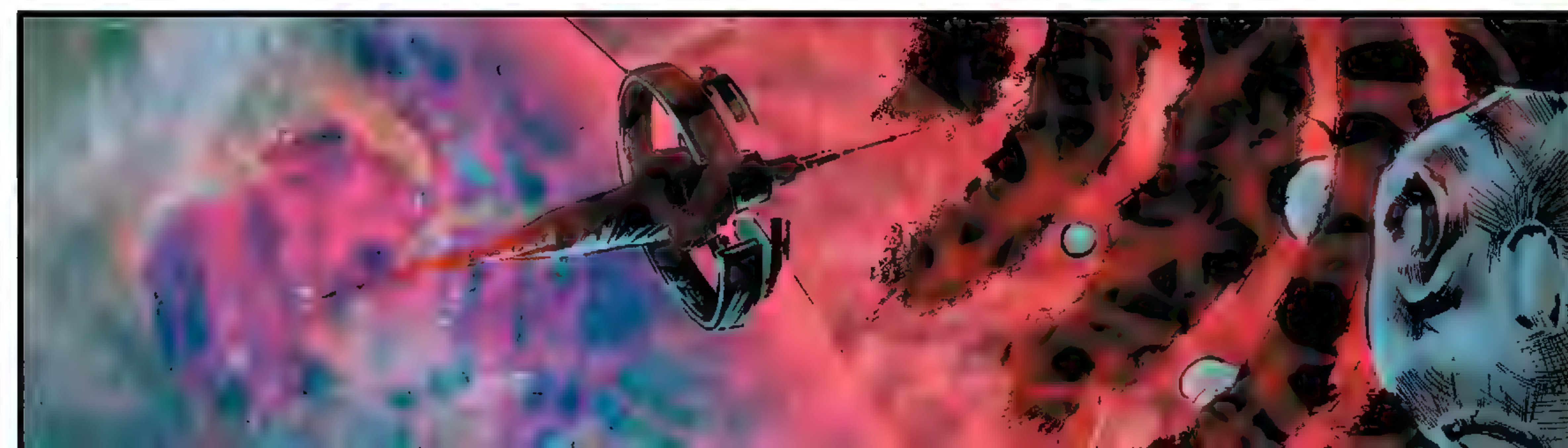
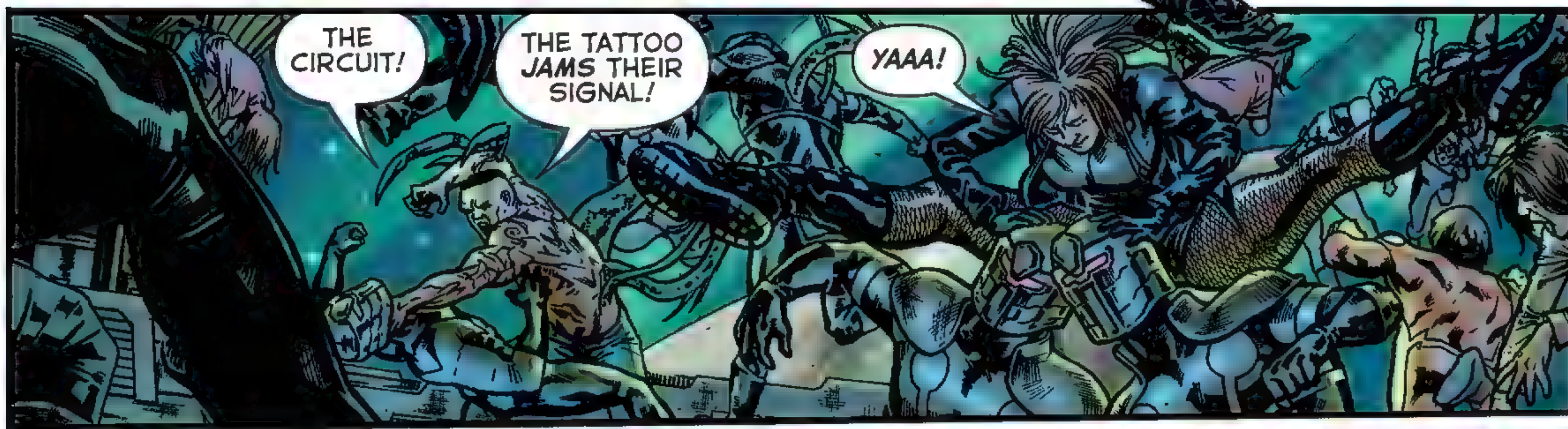
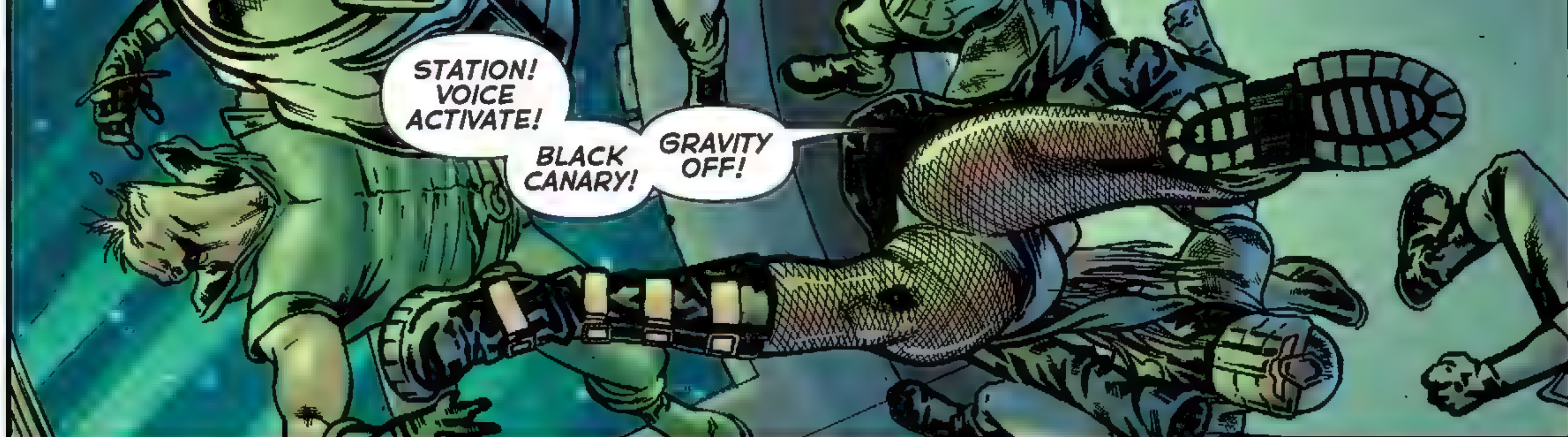
SUPERBAT, YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHAT YOUR POWER WAS....

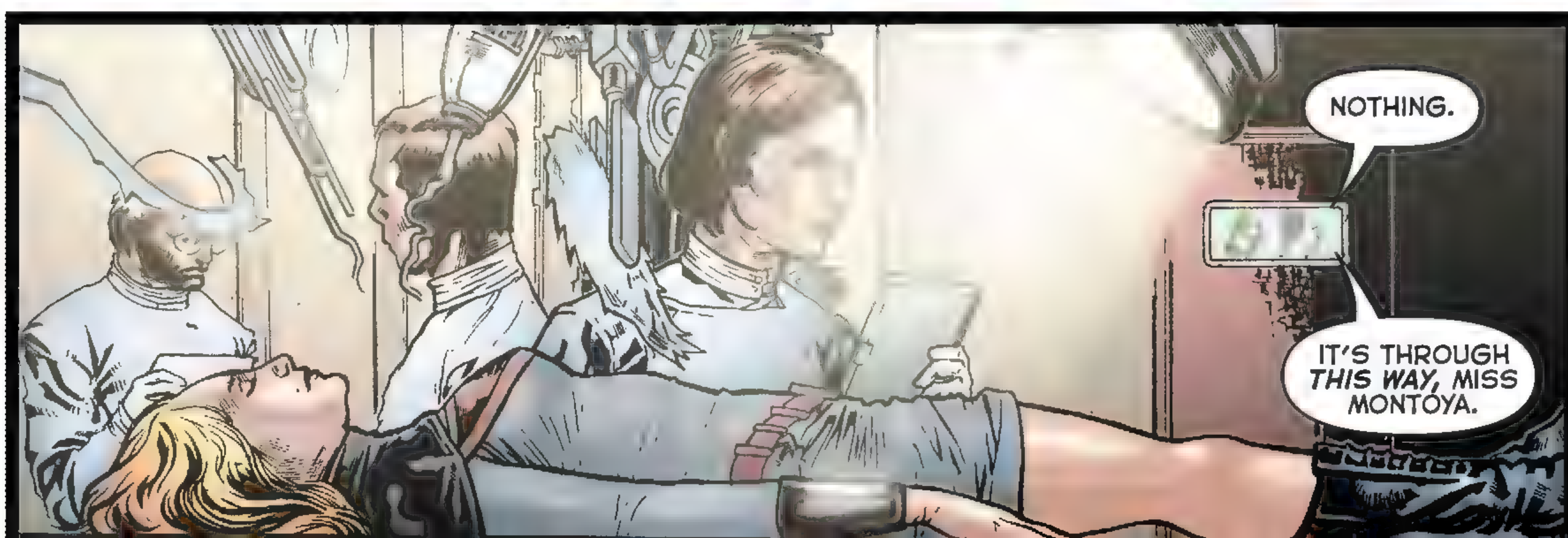
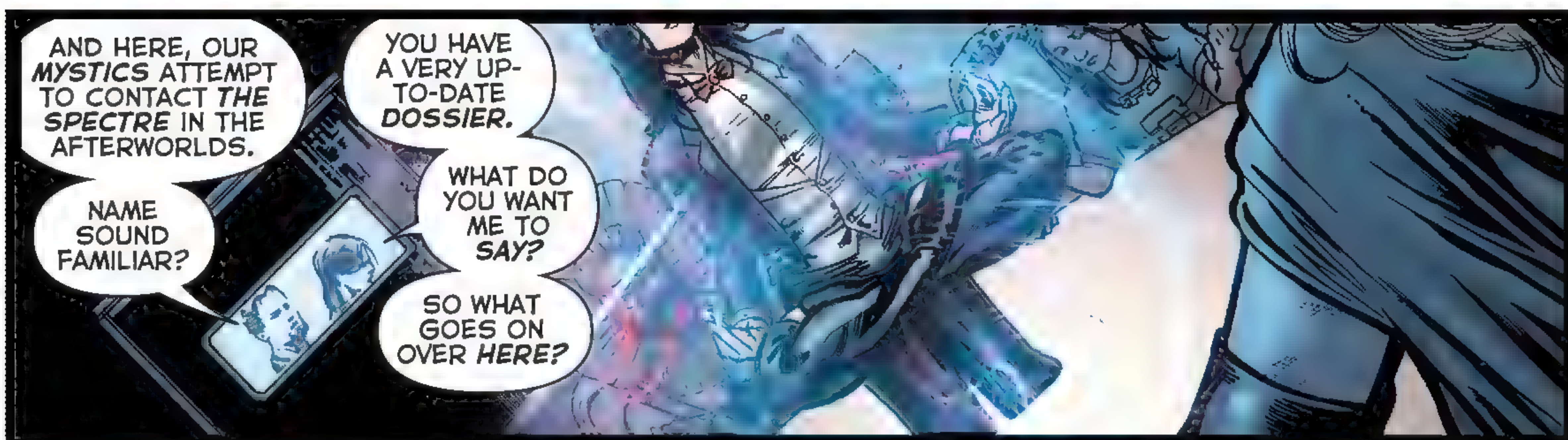
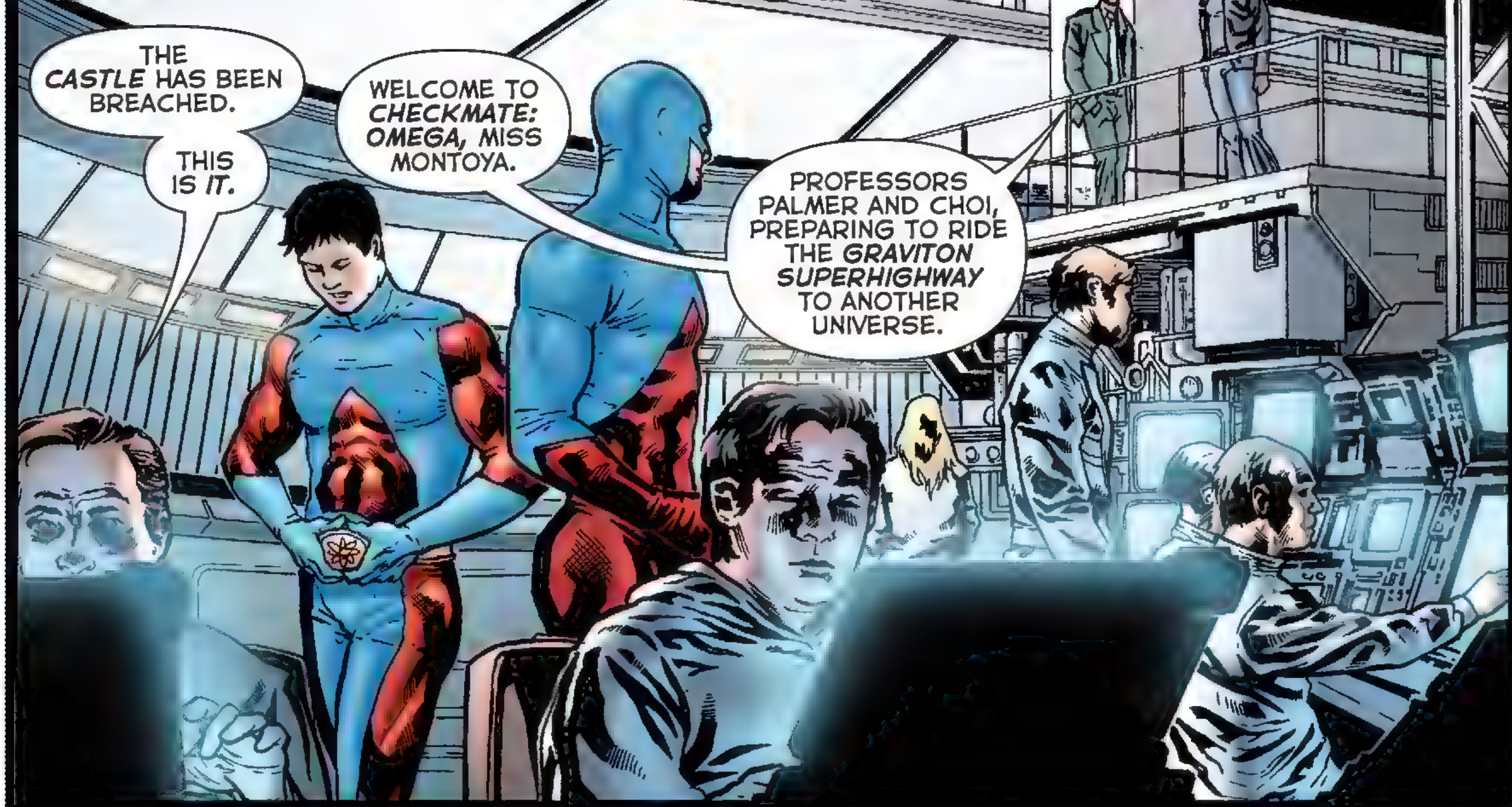
I HAVE THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL, MISTER MIRACLE.

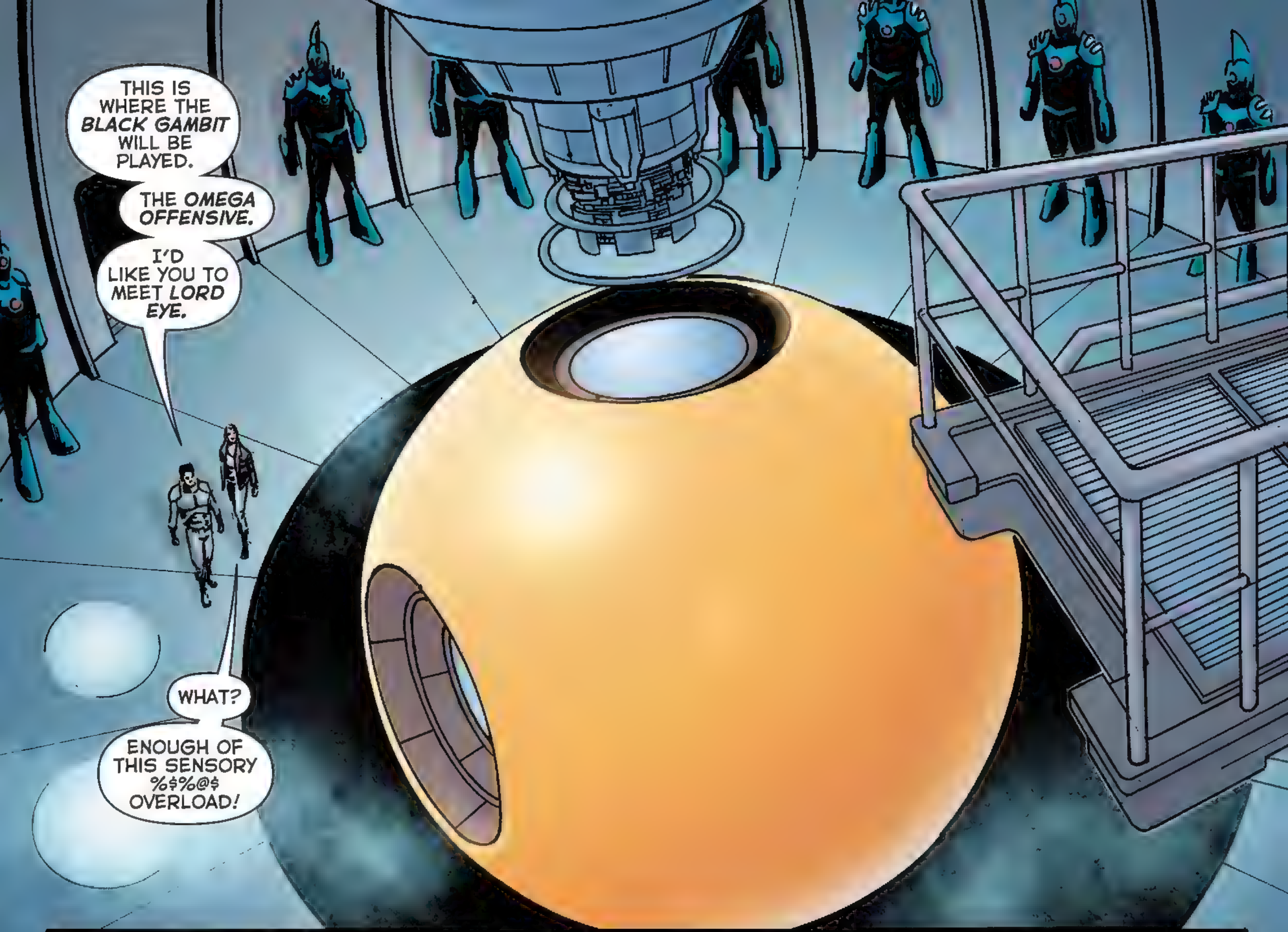
I AM SO RICH I CAN DO ANYTHING.

HARD LIGHT MECHA-WARSUIT!









THIS IS
WHERE THE
BLACK GAMBIT
WILL BE
PLAYED.

THE OMEGA
OFFENSIVE.

I'D
LIKE YOU TO
MEET LORD
EYE.

WHAT?

ENOUGH OF
THIS SENSORY
%\$%@\$
OVERLOAD!

THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT
OUT THERE!

IN CASE YOU
HADN'T NOTICED,
IT'S ALL OVER
FOR THE HOME
TEAM!

*we live within
a **multiverse** of
possibilities, miss
montoya.*

*the
choices we
make decide
worlds.*

*you have
unprecedented
levels of law enforcement
experience with particular
regard to **superhuman** and
crime-fighting activities,
renee.*

*you are
the **template** for
something new.*

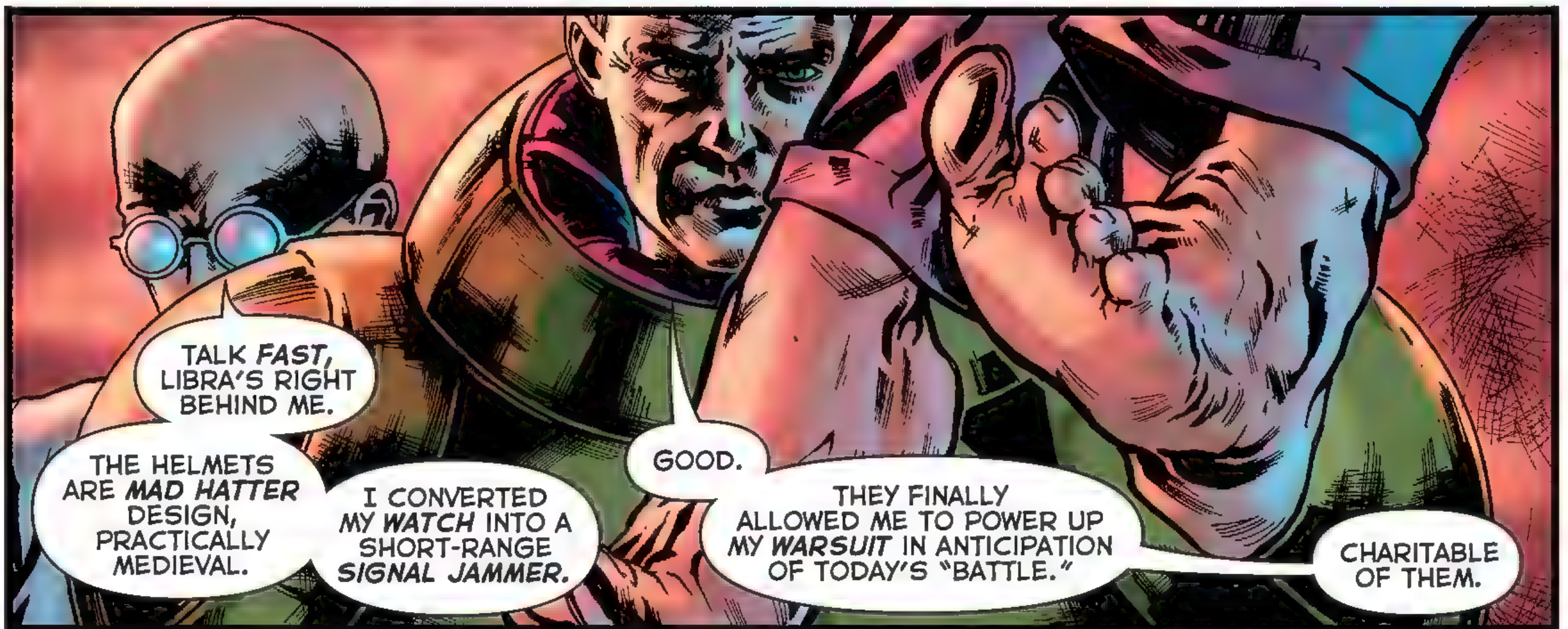
*we have already
identified a target
earth into which we
will make our
retreat.*

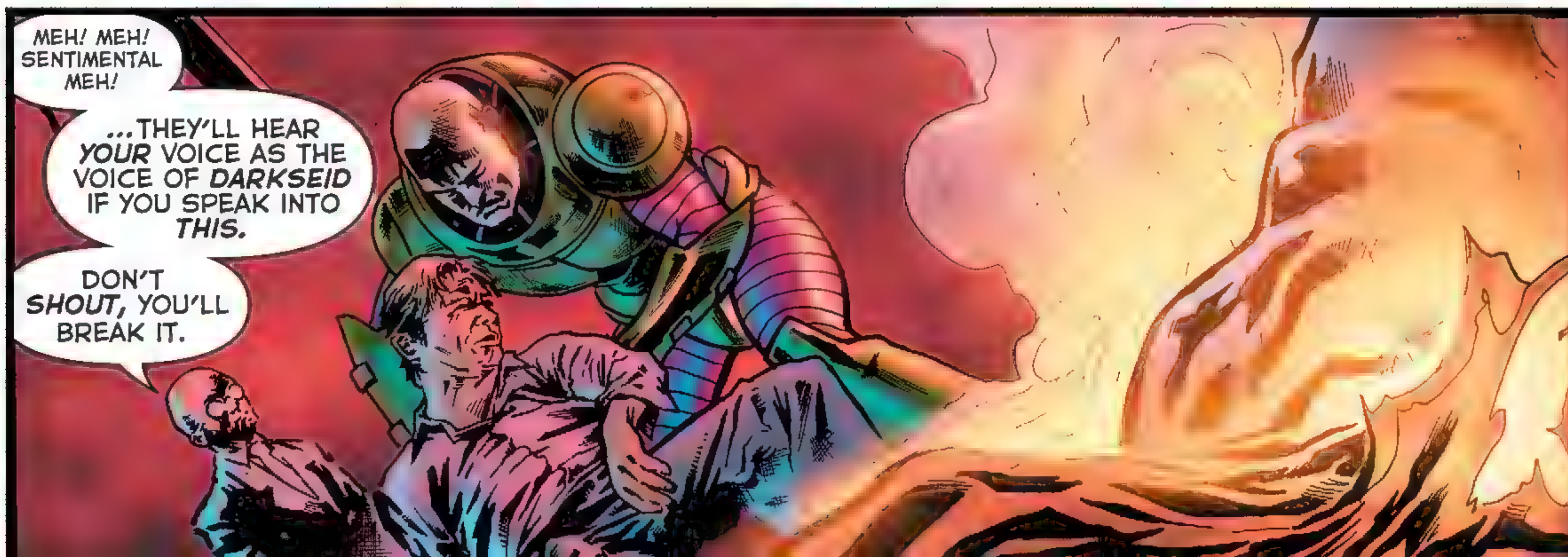
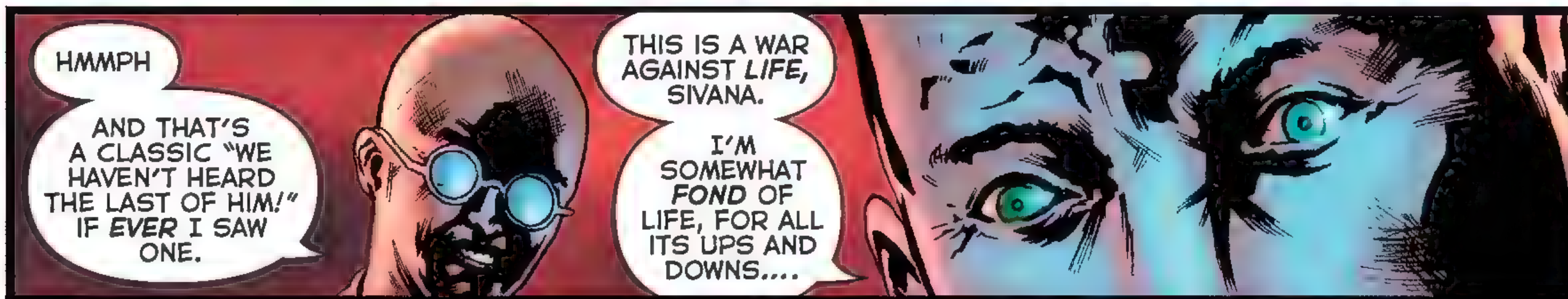
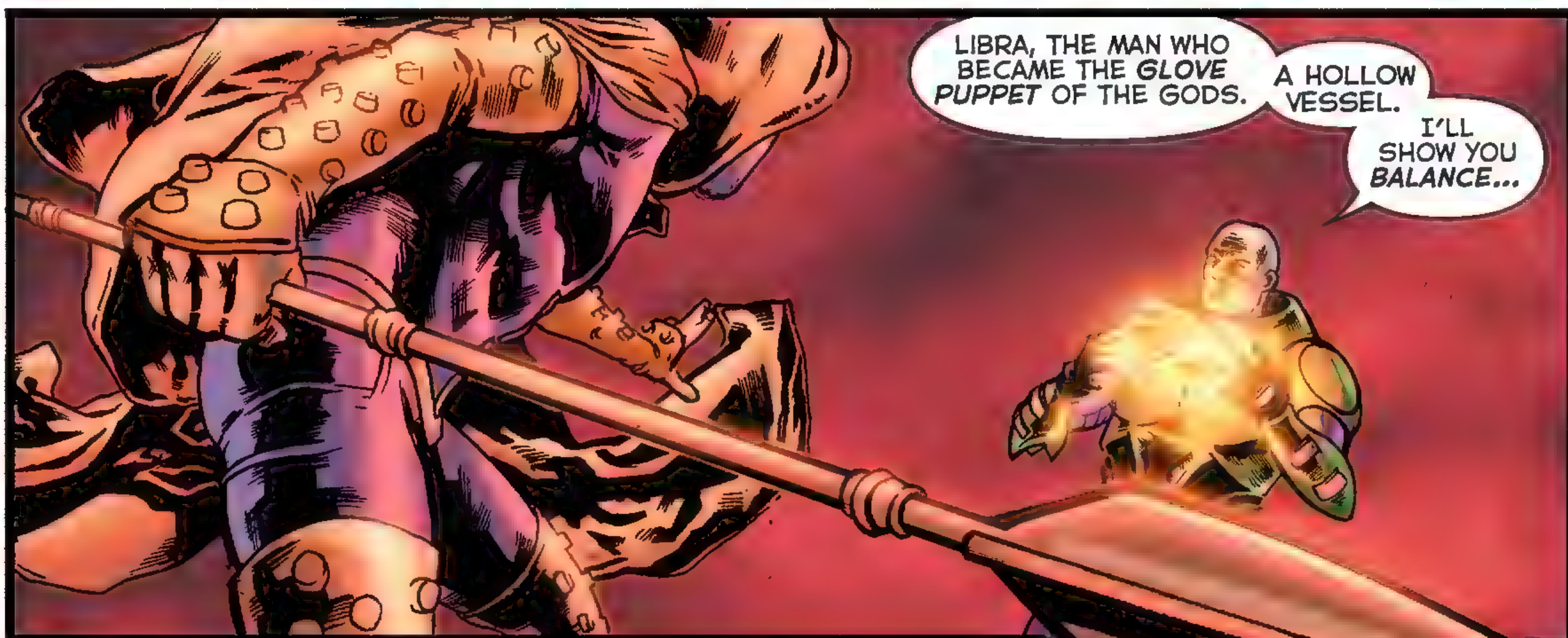
*if professors
palmer and **choi** are
successful, we will core
through **the bulk** into a
parallel universe.*

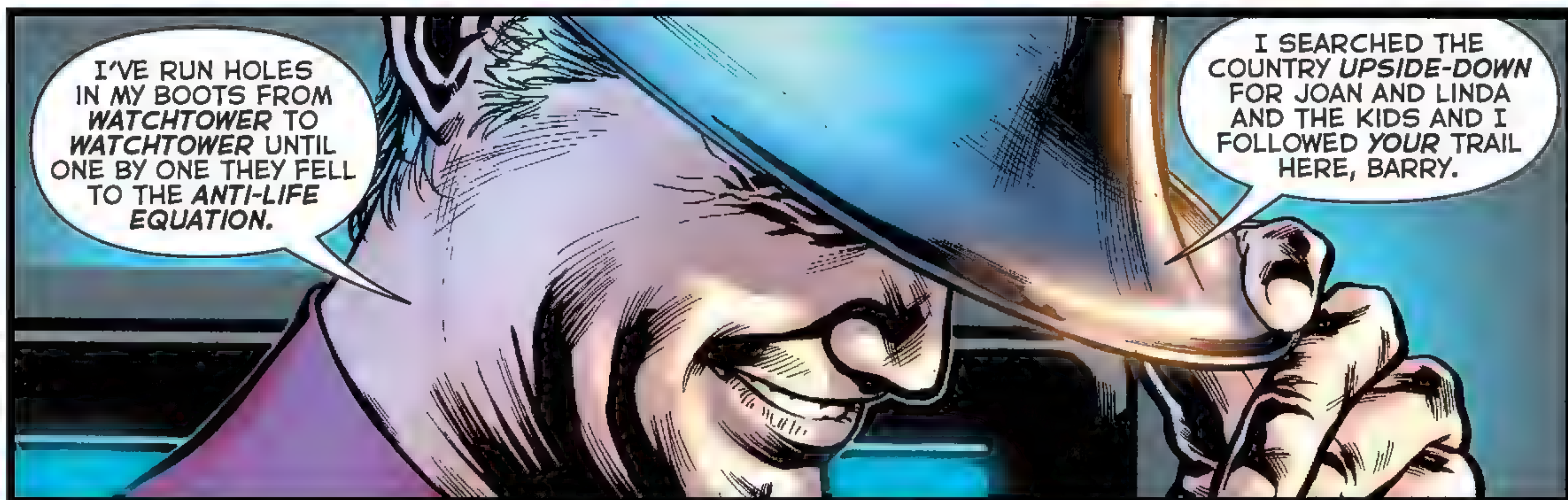
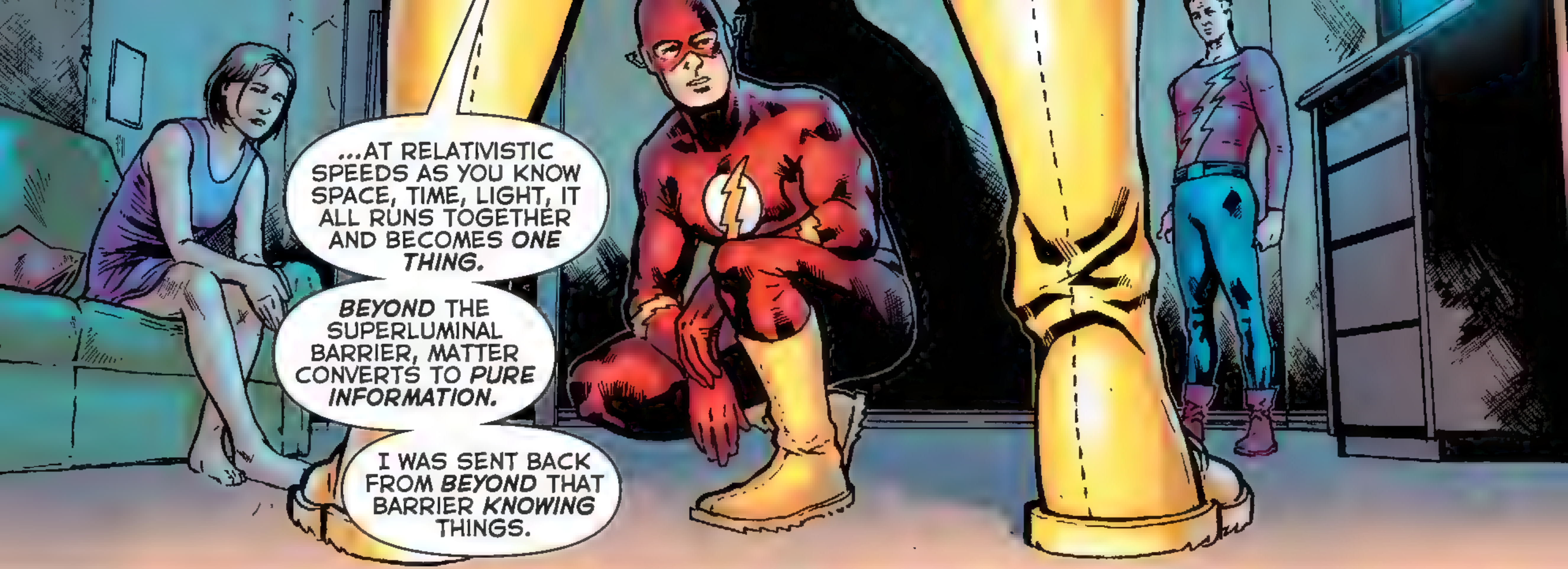
*we want you to
lead the **global peace**
agency that will
establish the remnants
of **this world** on
another.*

WAIT A
MINUTE.

SAY THAT
WHOLE BIT
AGAIN.





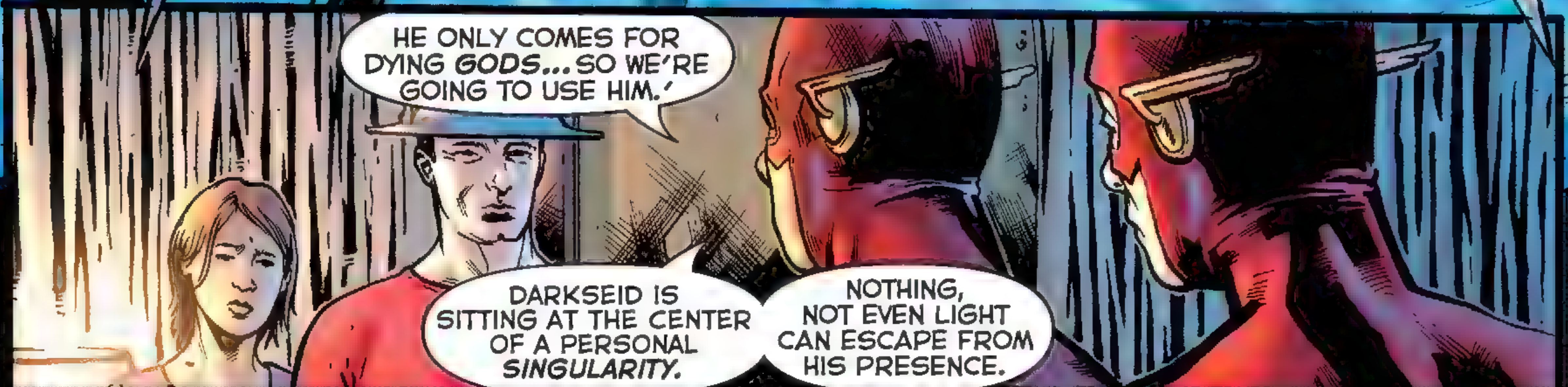




HEH.

I BET
YOU DID.

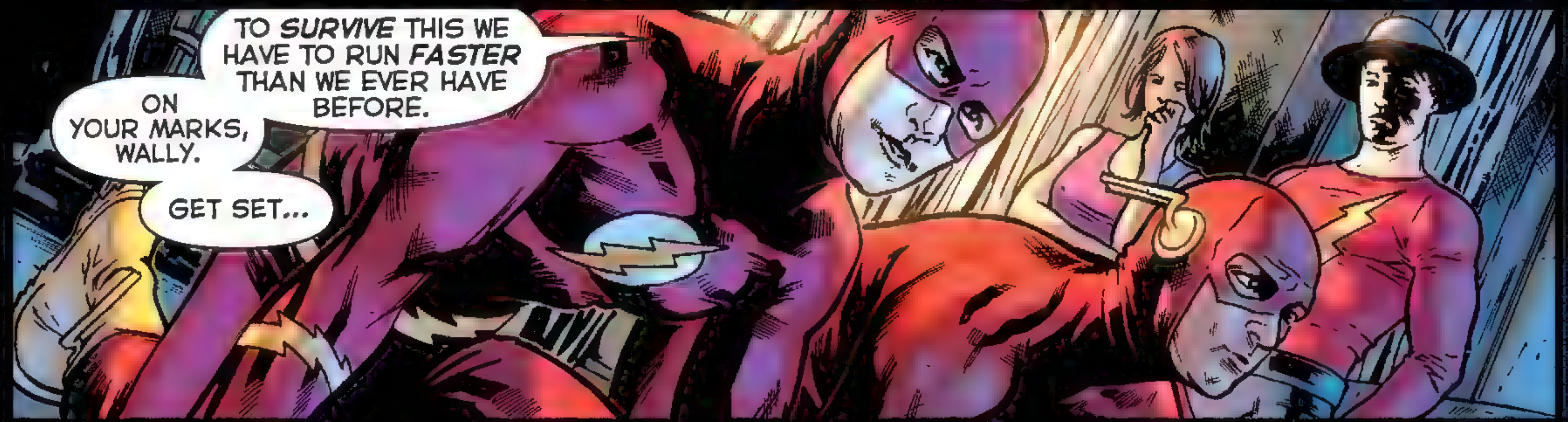
PLACES,
EVERYBODY!
HERE HE
COMES.



HE ONLY COMES FOR
DYING GODS... SO WE'RE
GOING TO USE HIM.

DARKSEID IS
SITTING AT THE CENTER
OF A PERSONAL
SINGULARITY.

NOTHING,
NOT EVEN LIGHT
CAN ESCAPE FROM
HIS PRESENCE.



TO SURVIVE THIS WE
HAVE TO RUN FASTER
THAN WE EVER HAVE
BEFORE.

ON
YOUR MARKS,
WALLY.

GET SET...



...GODSPEED...

I WONDERED WHEN YOU WOULD SHOW YOURSELF.

STOP SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS.

ACCEPT THAT THE EQUATION HAS SOLVED THE HUMAN PROBLEM.

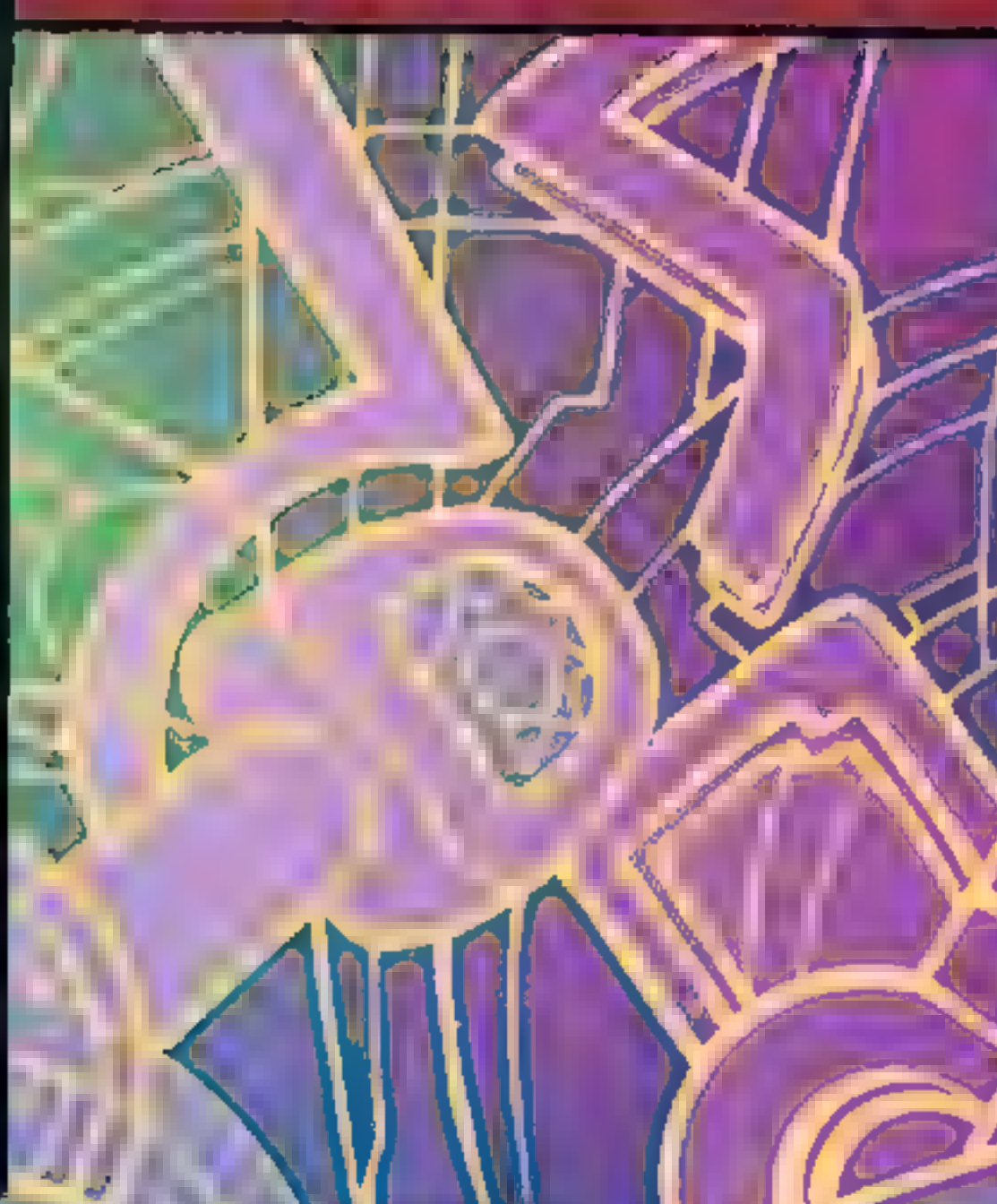
COME OUT.

EMBRACE ANTI-LIFE AND BE WHOLE.

DARKSEID.

YOU LOOK LIKE I FEEL.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOT ORION.



IT WAS ORION'S DESTINY TO FALL IN "FINAL BATTLE."

SPLINTERED LIKE LIGHT THROUGH A PRISM IN AN INFINITE NUMBER OF DEATHS.

AND ON THE WAY HE WOUNDED YOU, BEYOND REPAIR, DIDN'T HE?

A ROTTEN CARCASS OF A GOD, CRAWLING INTO THE SEWER TO DIE.

I MADE A VERY SOLEMN VOW ABOUT FIREARMS.

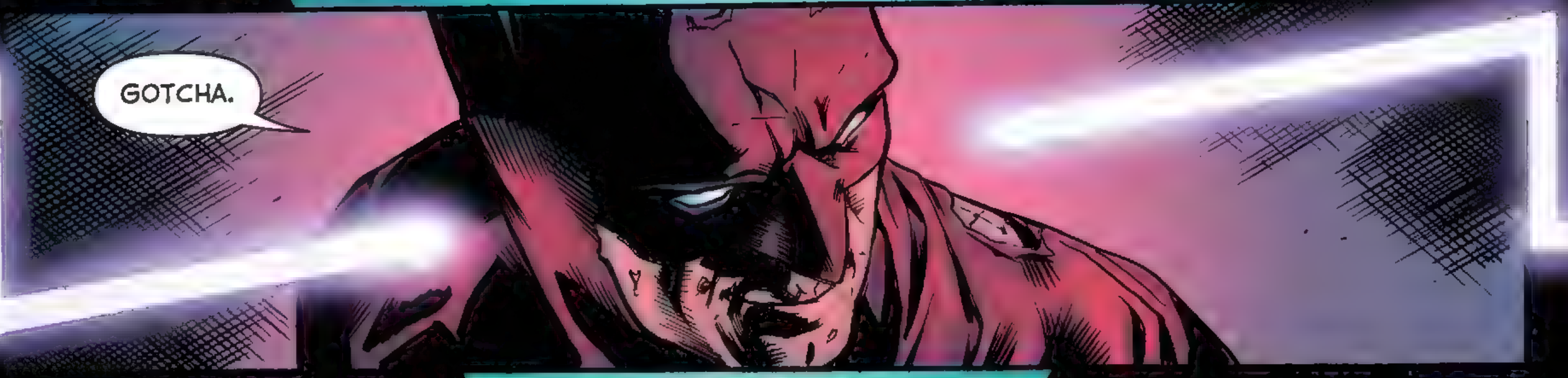
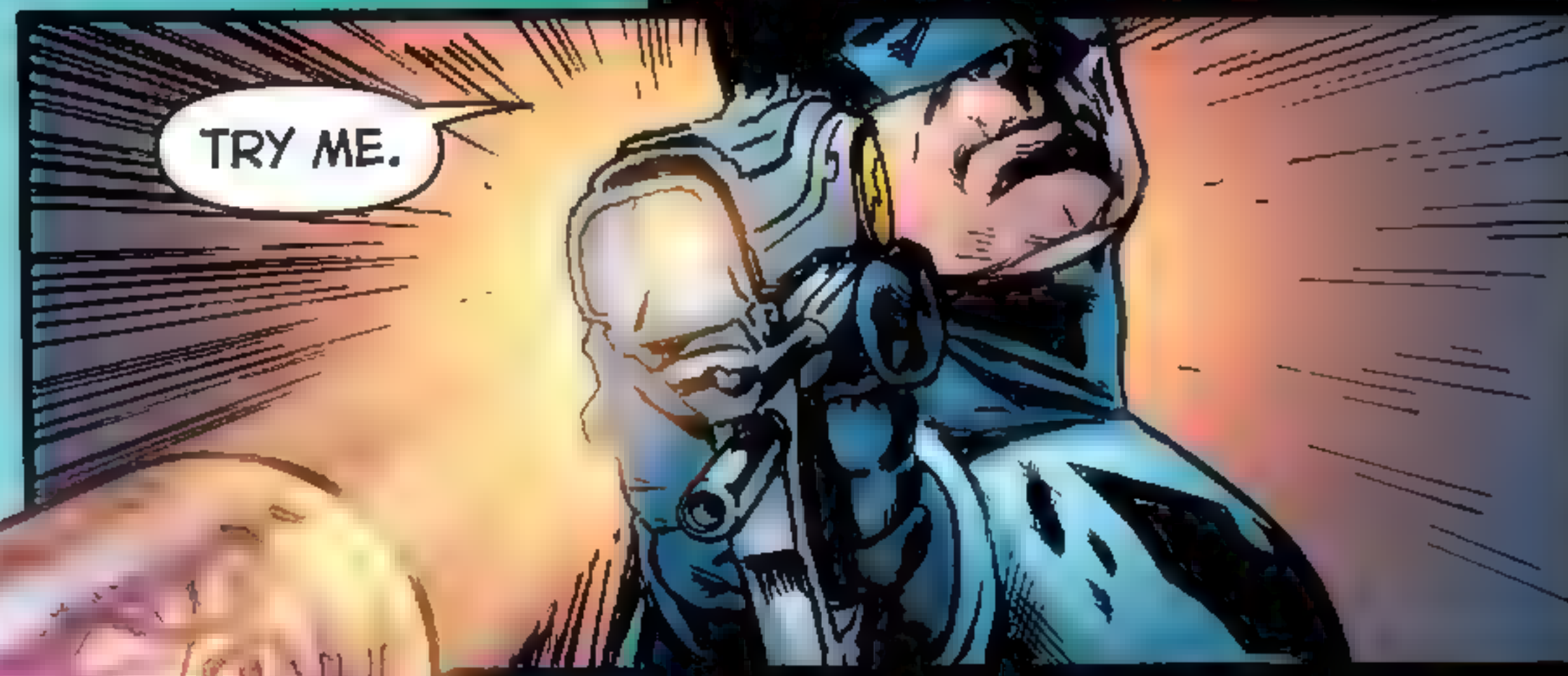
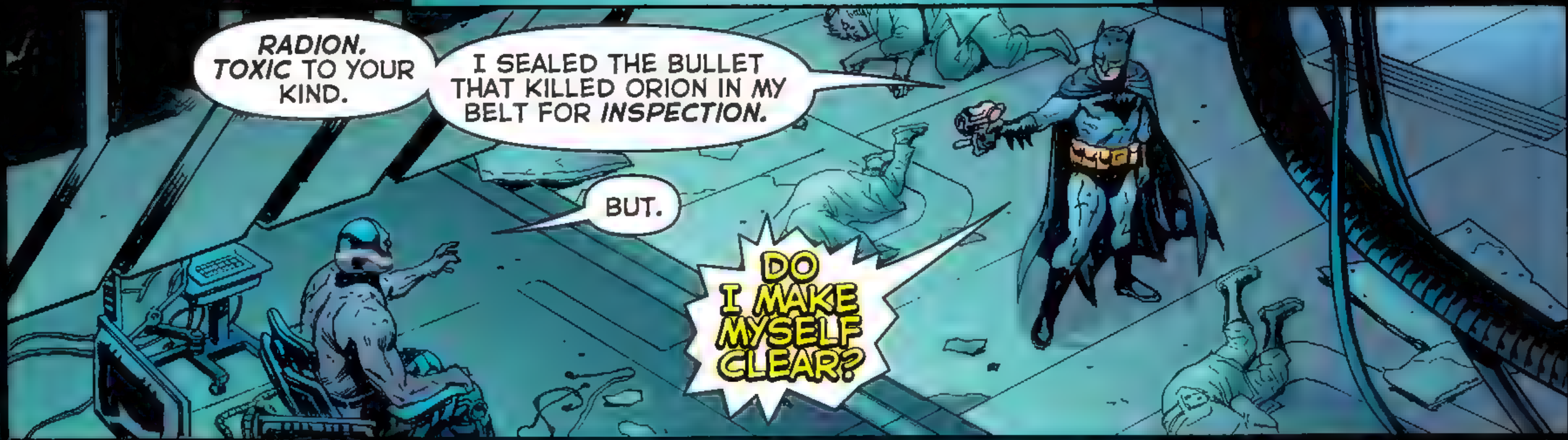


BUT FOR YOU, I'M MAKING A ONCE-IN-A LIFETIME EXCEPTION.

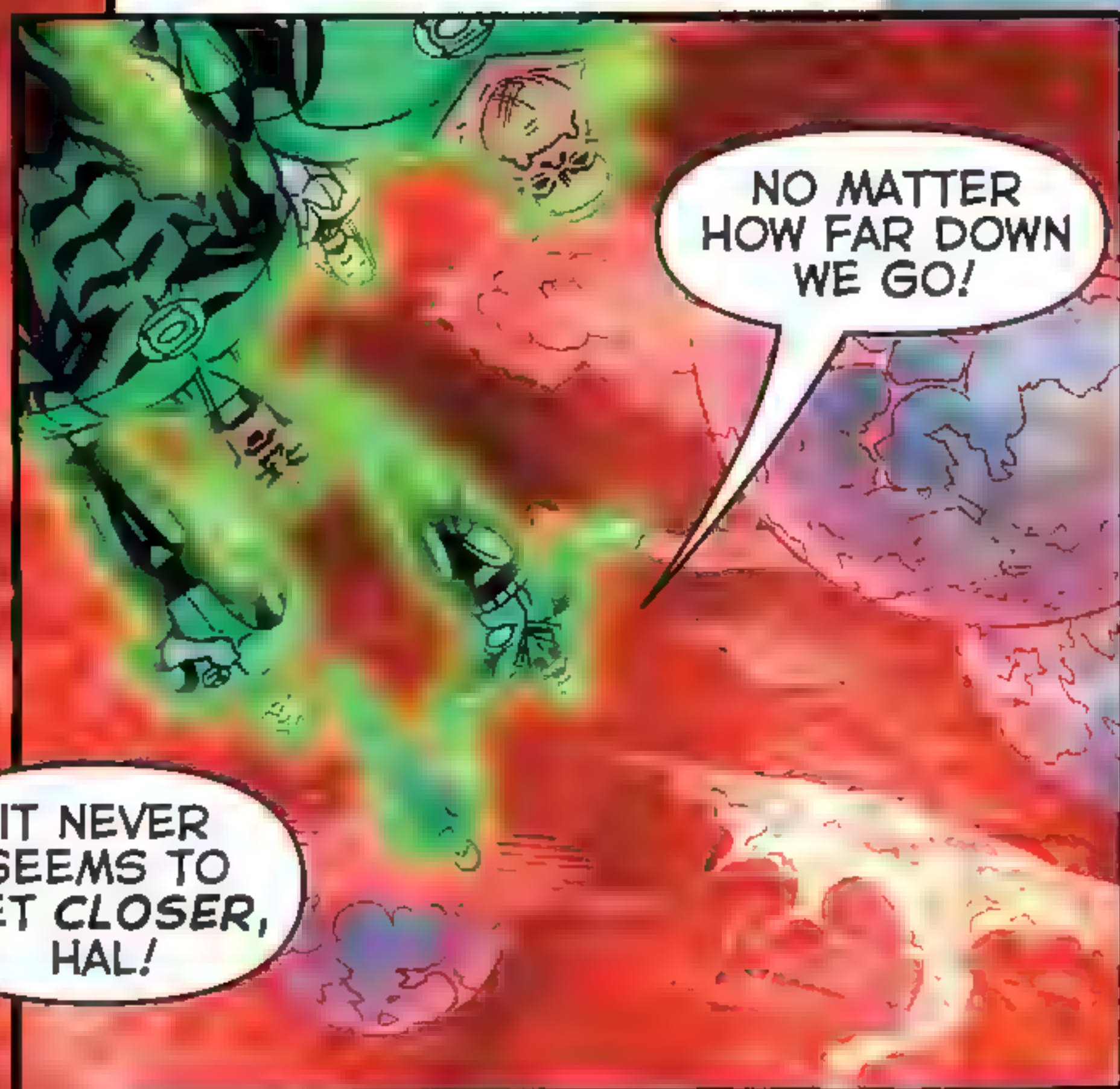
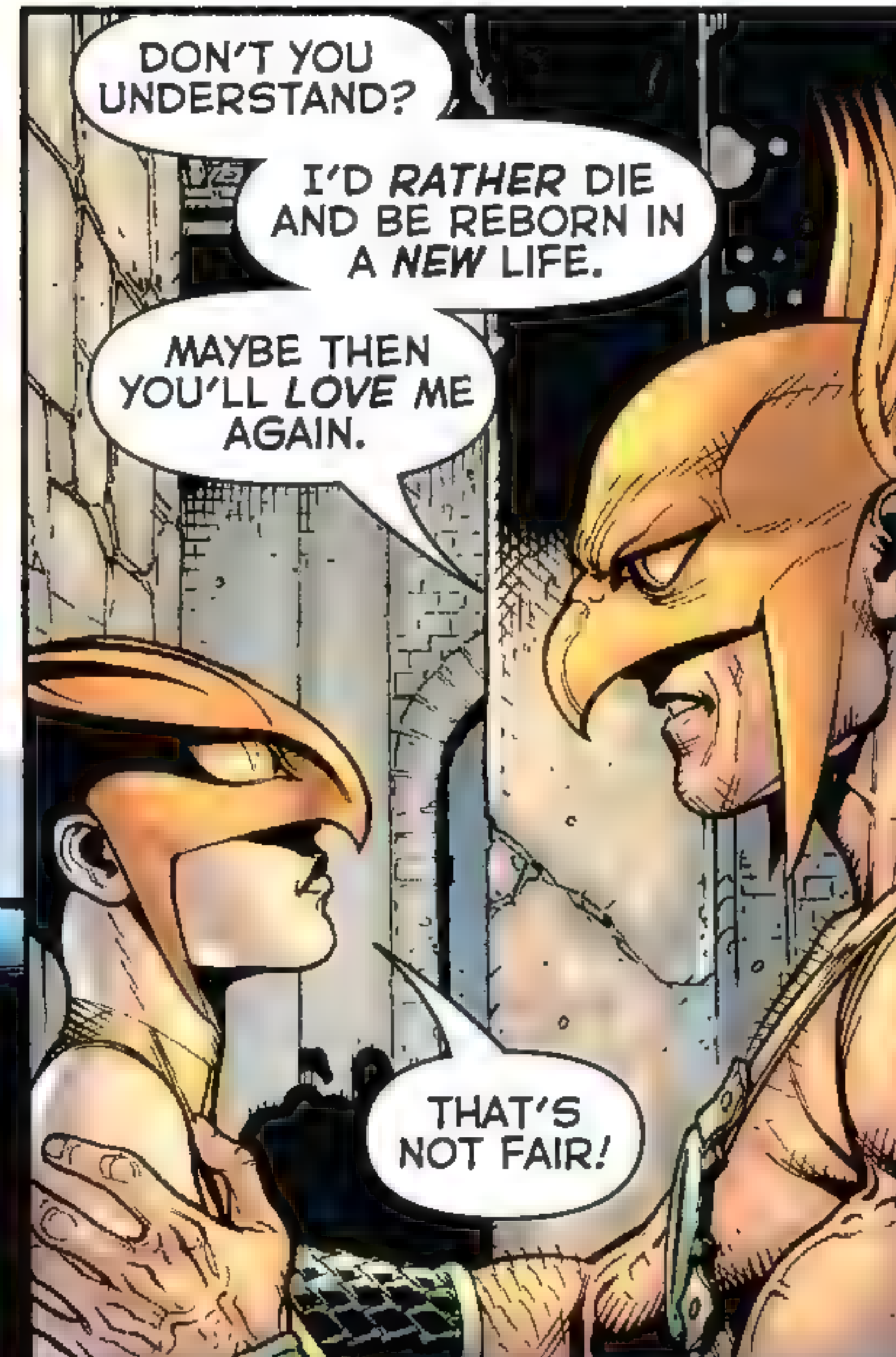
A GUN AND A BULLET, DARKSEID.

IT WAS YOUR IDEA.





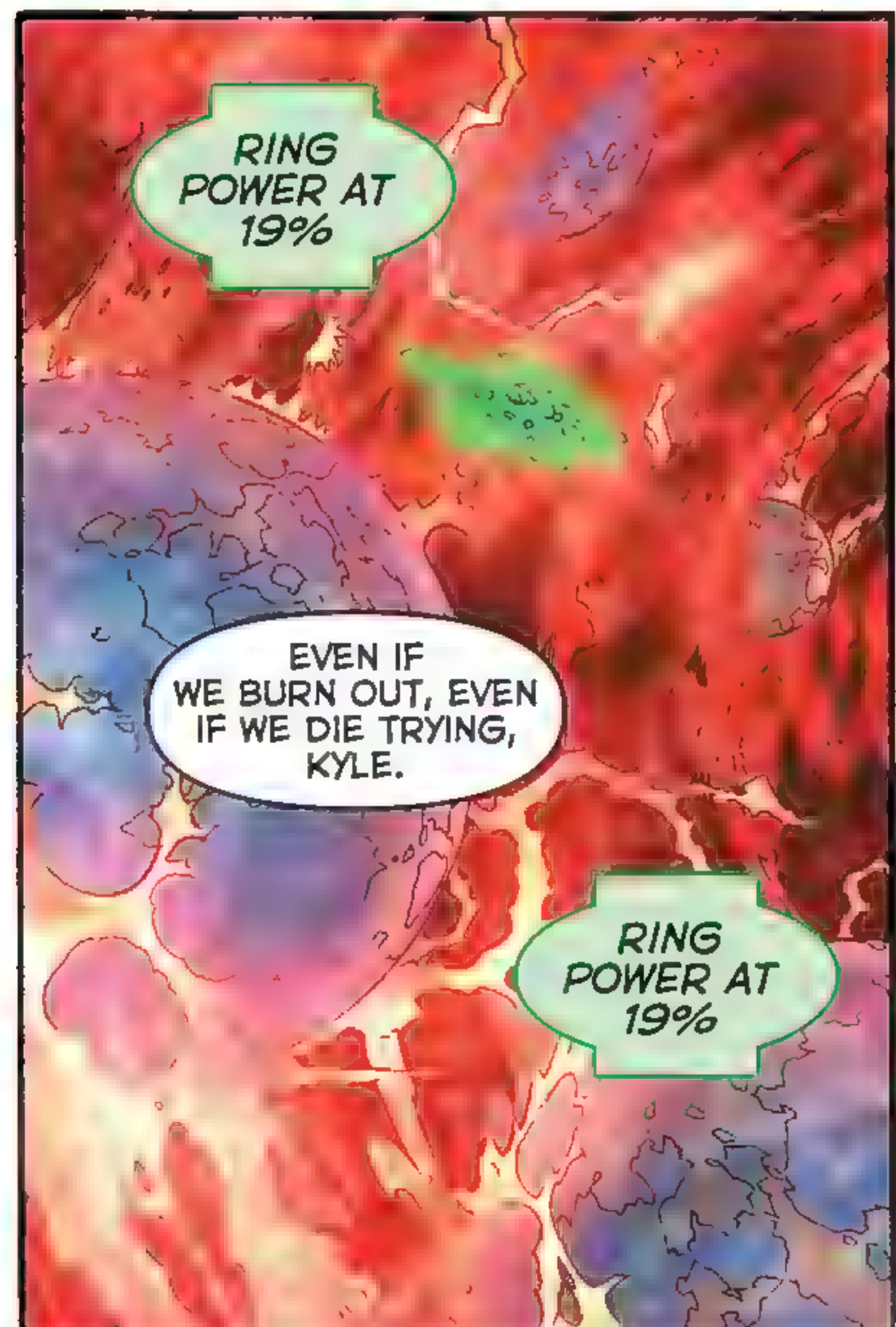
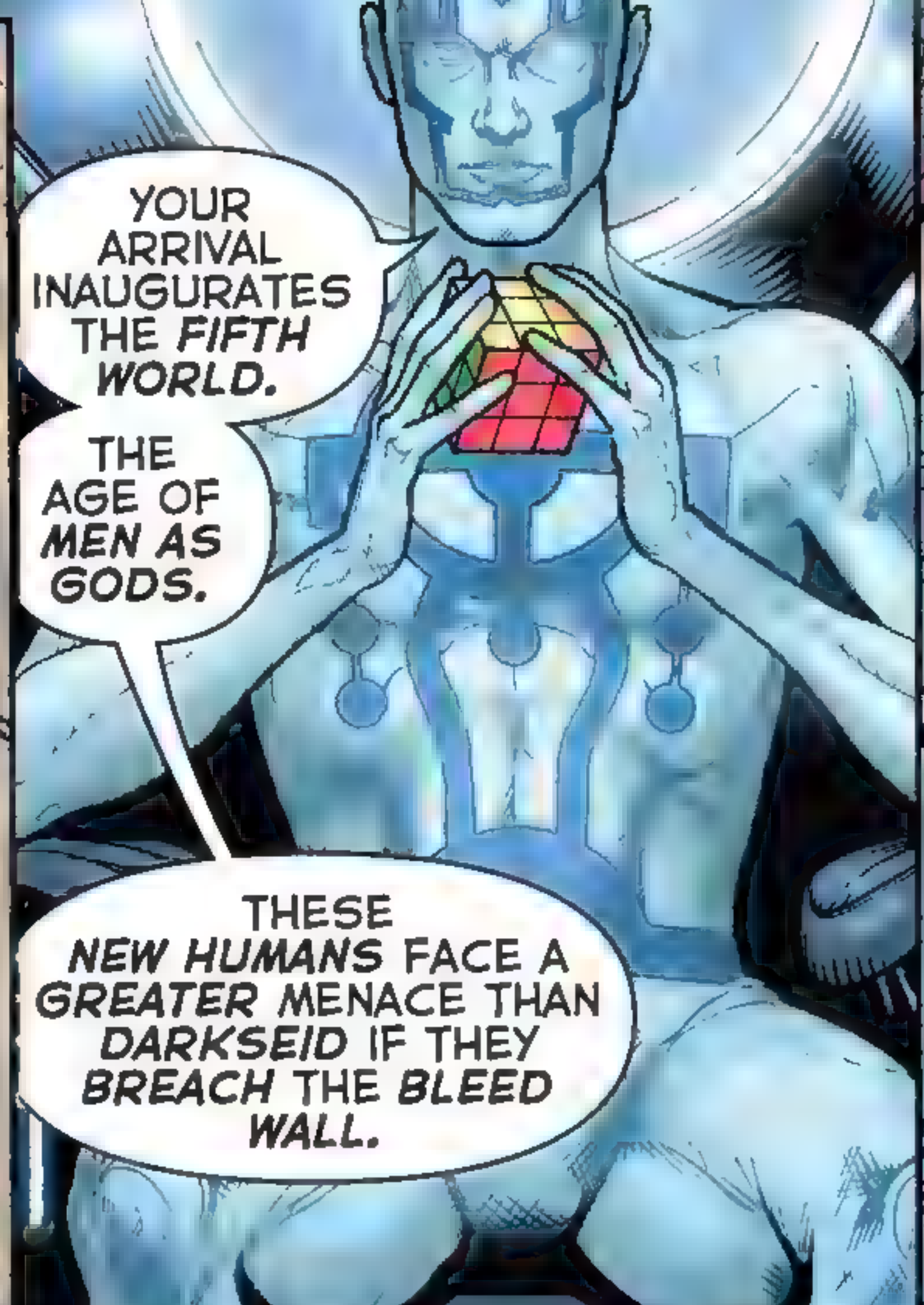


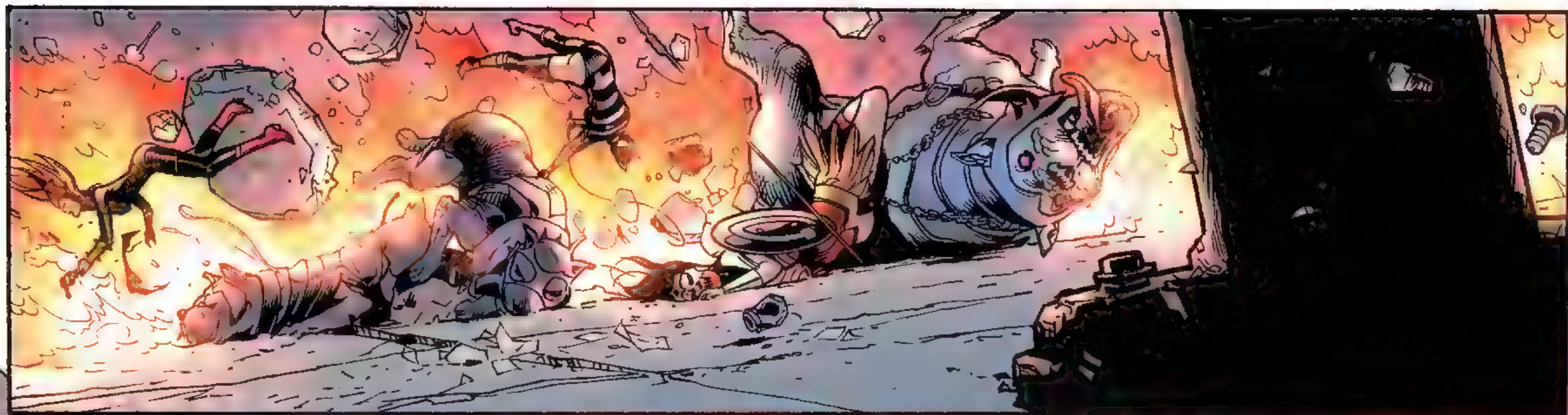
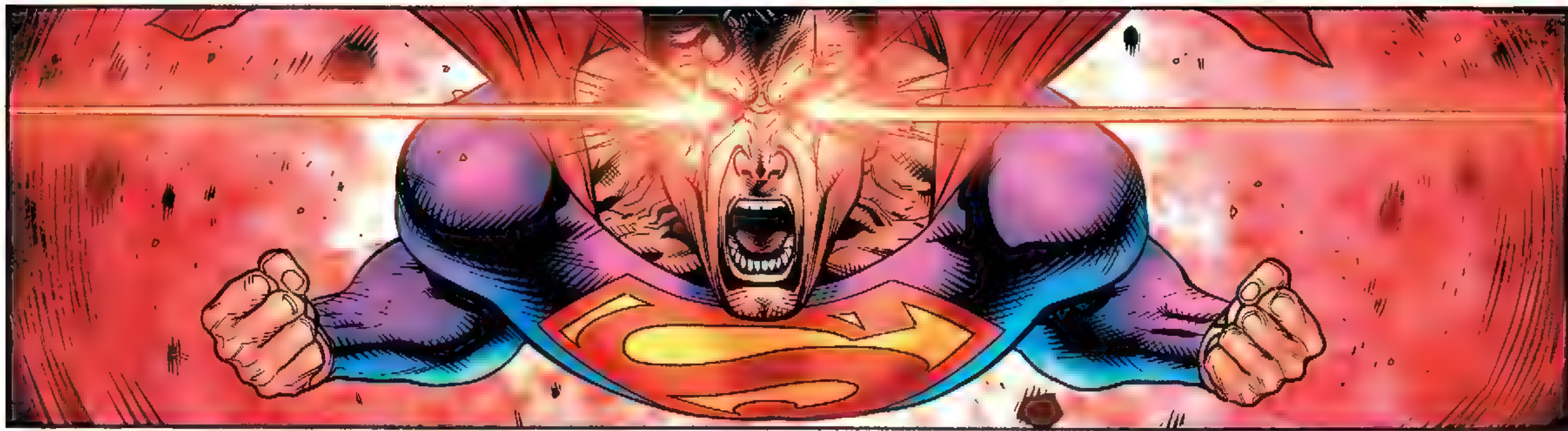
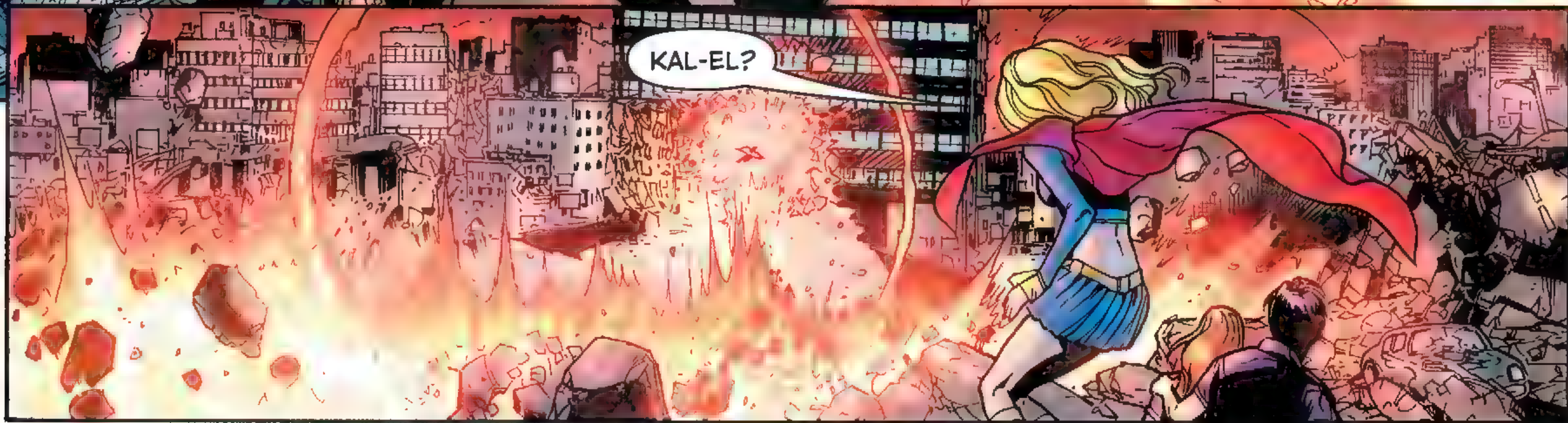
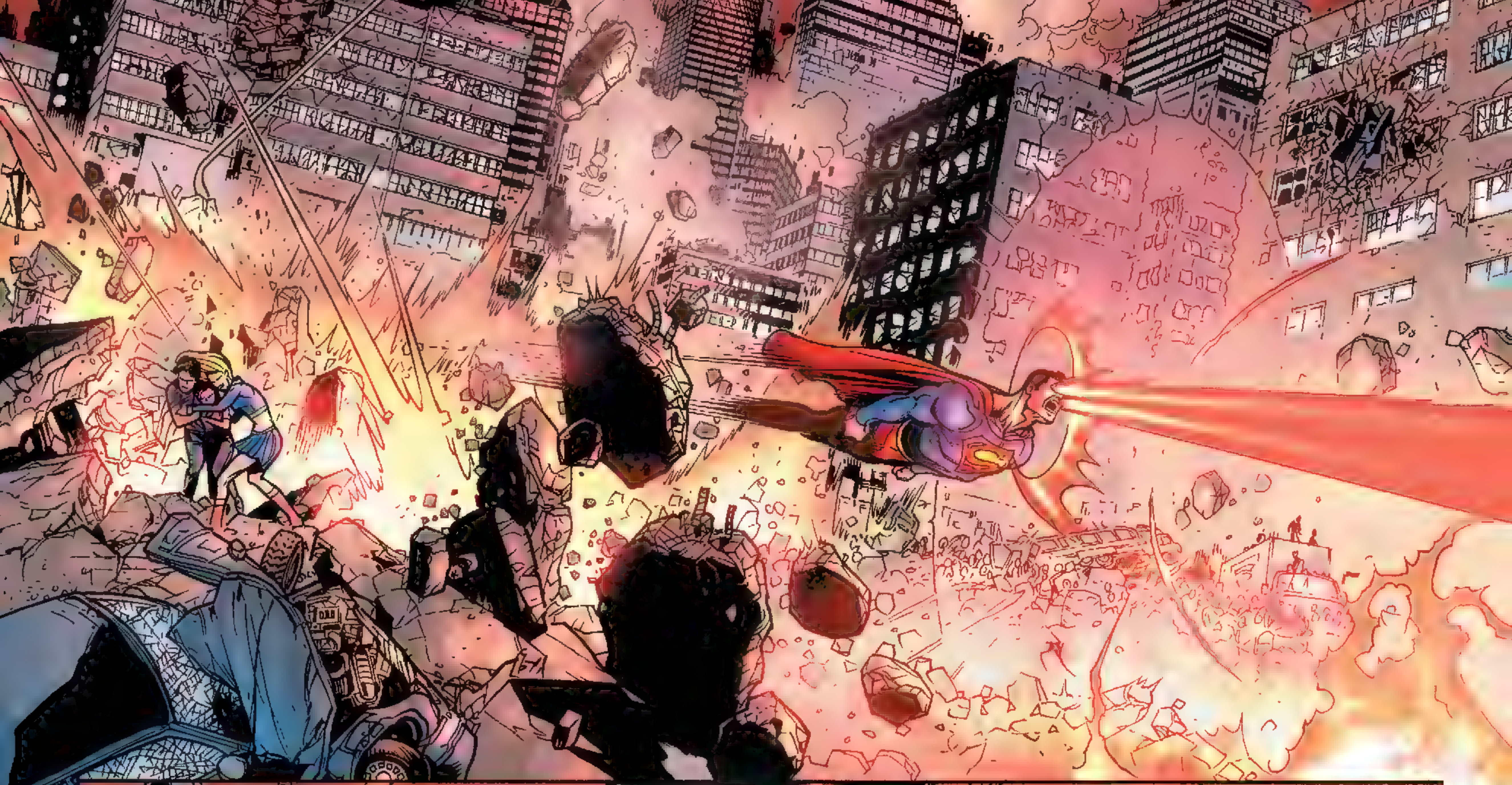


METRON, I CAN'T COORDINATE THIS!

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT ONCE.

I KNOW I WAS EXILED IN THE DARKNESS WITH THESE GERM-PEOPLE FOR A REASON, BUT THIS...







OH
GOD, WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
THE SKY?!

LOOK WHAT
THEY'VE DONE
TO THE SKY.

HOW
CAN WE STOP
THIS?!



NOBODY CAN
STOP THIS.

WE'RE
POWERLESS.

THIS IS
THE END OF
THE WORLD.

DAD?





NEW HEAVEN NEW EARTH

GRANT MORRISON
writer

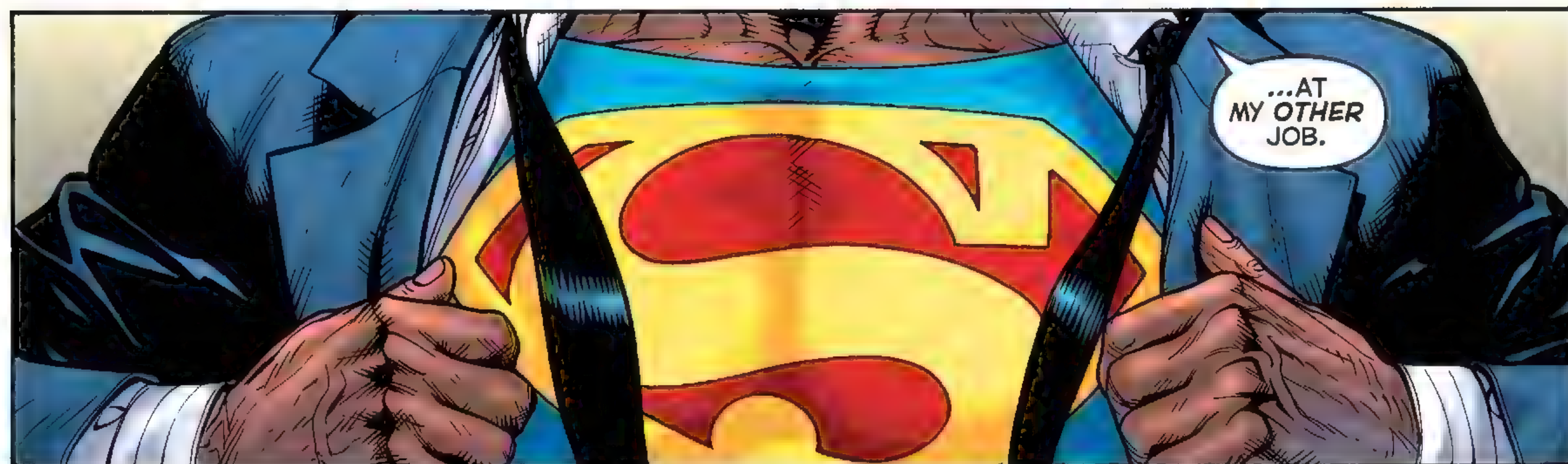
DOUG MAHNKE
penciller

**TOM NGUYEN, DREW GERACI, CHRISTIAN
ALAMY, NORM RAPMUND, RODNEY RAMOS,
DOUG MAHNKE, WALDEN WONG & MARK IRWIN**
inkers

**ALEX SINCLAIR, TONY AVINA
& PETE PANTAZIS**
colorists

TRAVIS LANHAM
letterer

J.G. JONES
cover artist





THAT MUSIC!

GREAT KRYPTON, NUBIA!

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS SHAKING!

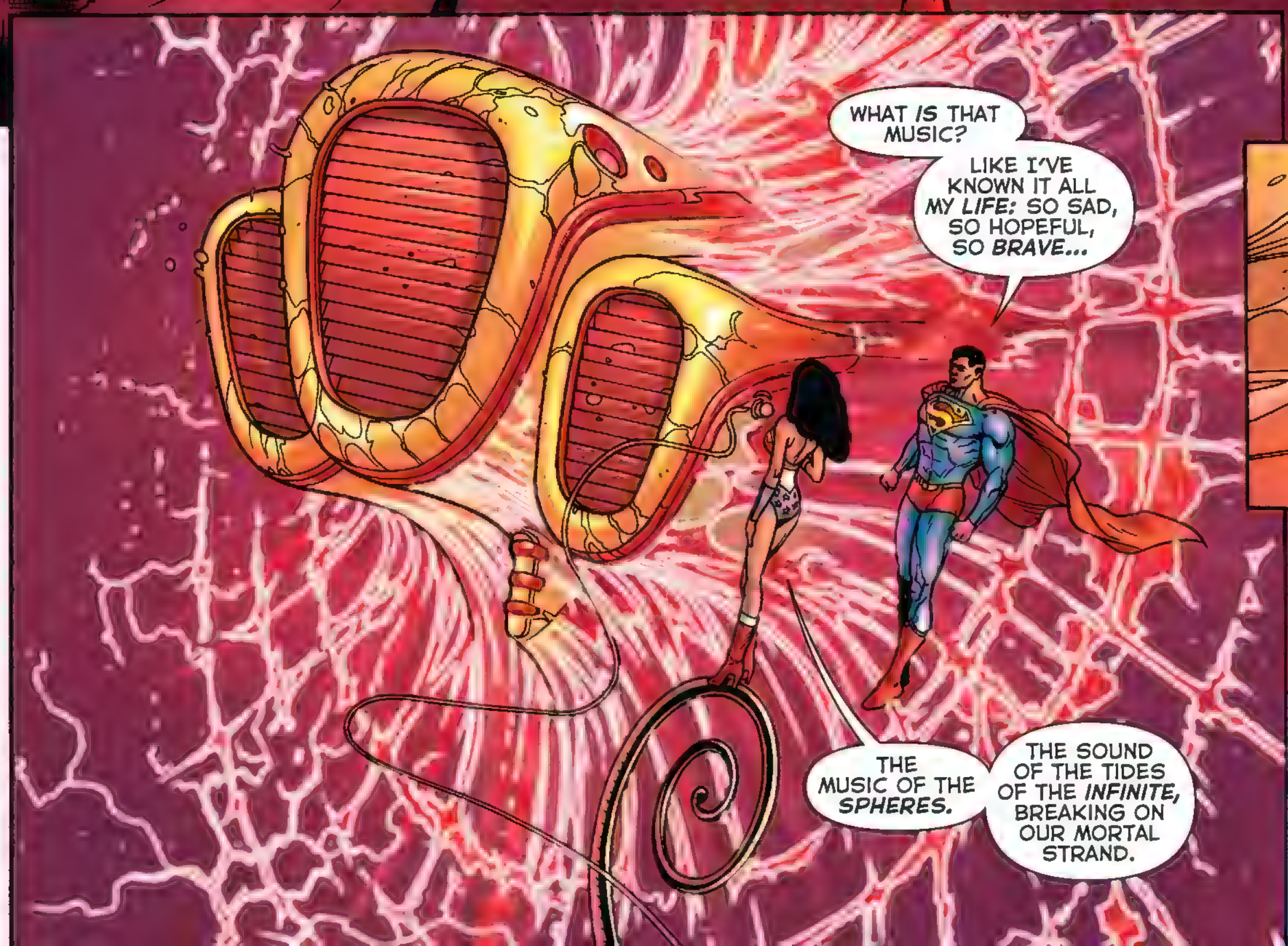
THE WONDER WOMEN OF AMAZONIA BRING ONLY ANTI-WAR TECHNOLOGY INTO THE WORLD.

BUT THE WONDER HORN WAS A GIFT FROM THE UNIVERSALS IN MYTHIC TIME BEFORE TIME.

TO BE USED ONLY ONCE, WHEN ALL ELSE HAS FAILED.

WHATEVER IT IS...

...SOMETHING'S RESPONDING!

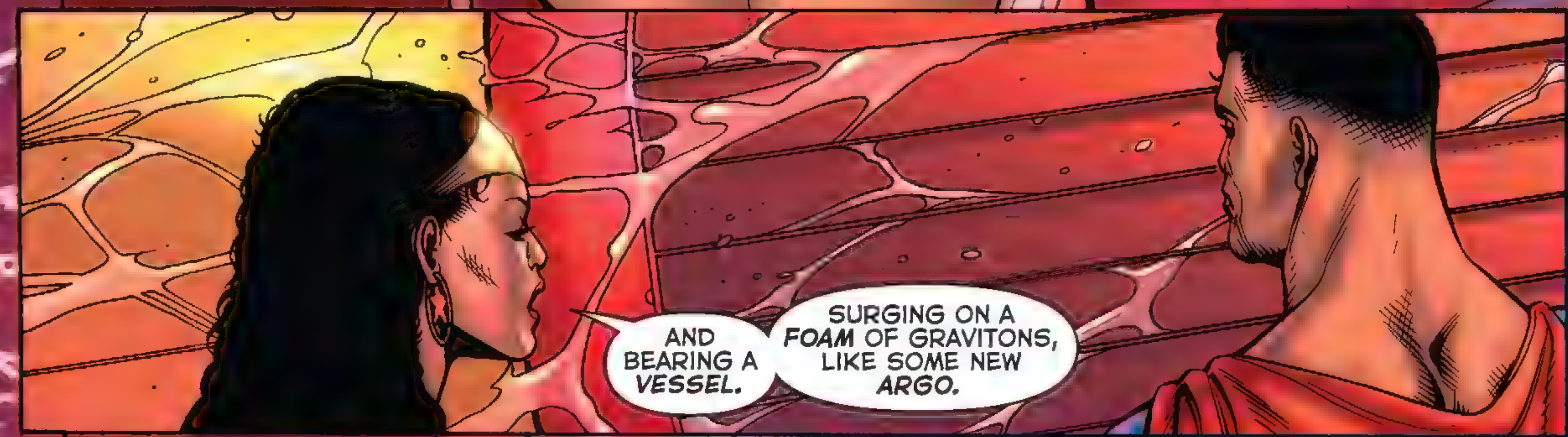


WHAT IS THAT MUSIC?

LIKE I'VE KNOWN IT ALL MY LIFE: SO SAD, SO HOPEFUL, SO BRAVE...

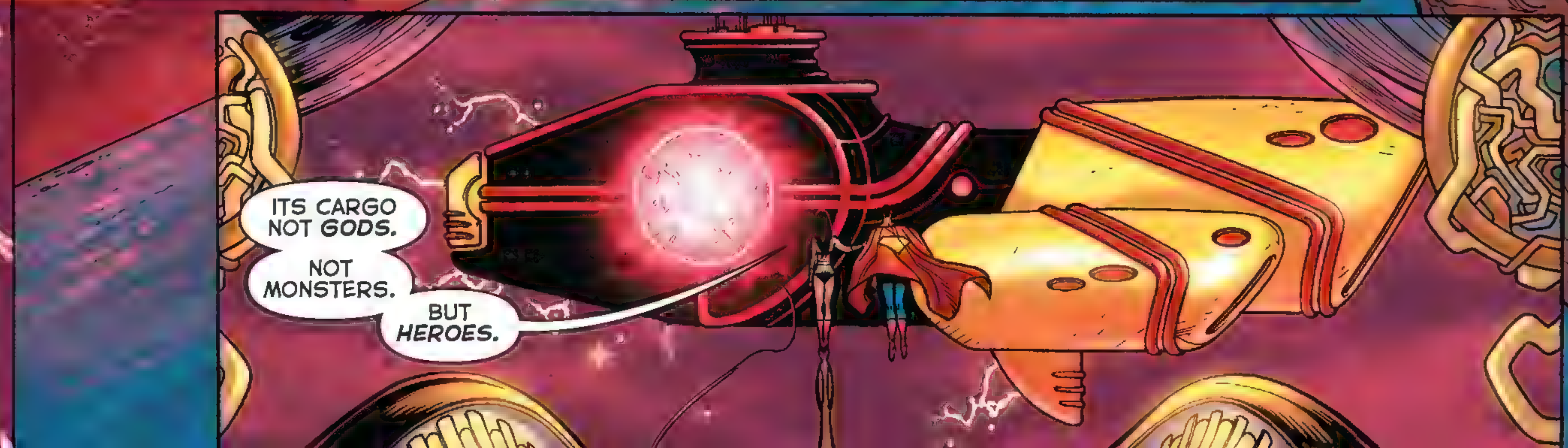
THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES.

THE SOUND OF THE TIDES OF THE INFINITE, BREAKING ON OUR MORTAL STRAND.



AND BEARING A VESSEL.

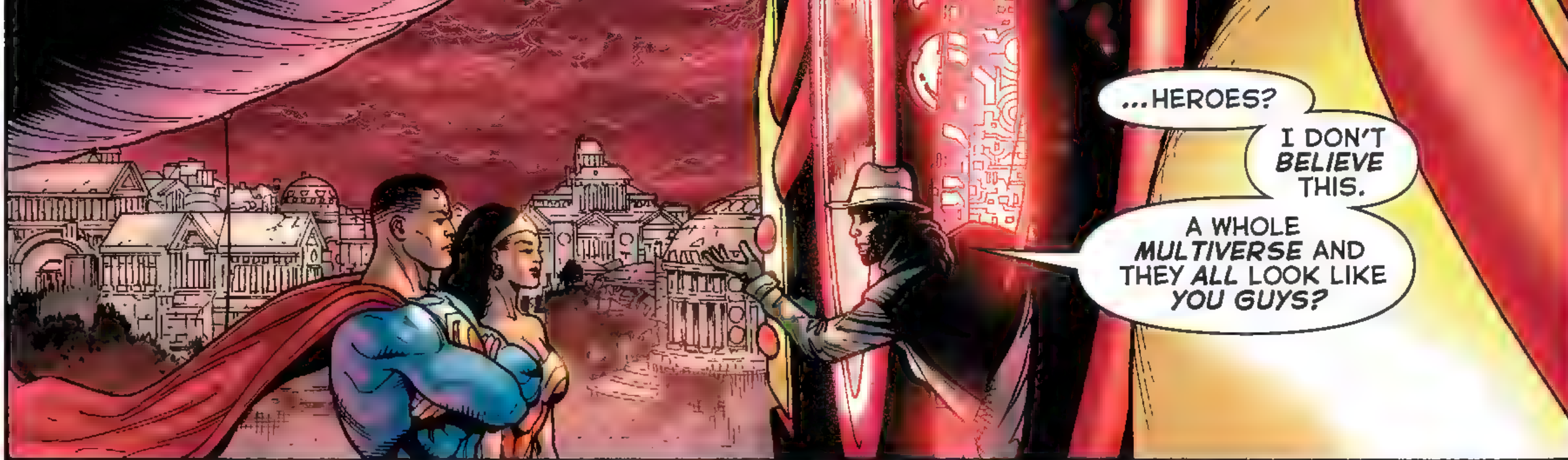
SURGING ON A FOAM OF GRAVITONS, LIKE SOME NEW ARGO.



ITS CARGO NOT GODS.

NOT MONSTERS.

BUT HEROES.



...HEROES?

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

A WHOLE MULTIVERSE AND THEY ALL LOOK LIKE YOU GUYS?



MINUS THE SWEARING.

NAME'S CAPTAIN MARVEL: WE'RE HERE TO RECRUIT THE SUPERMEN OF THE MULTIVERSE ON A LIFE-OR-DEATH MISSION OF COSMIC PROPORTIONS!

I ENJOY SWEARING WHEN I FEEL THE SITUATION DEMANDS IT.

THE QUESTION.

GLOBAL PEACE AGENT.

THE
WATCHTOWER.

WHEN SPACETIME
FOLDED DOWN, THIS
WAS *EVERYTHING* WE
COULD SALVAGE.

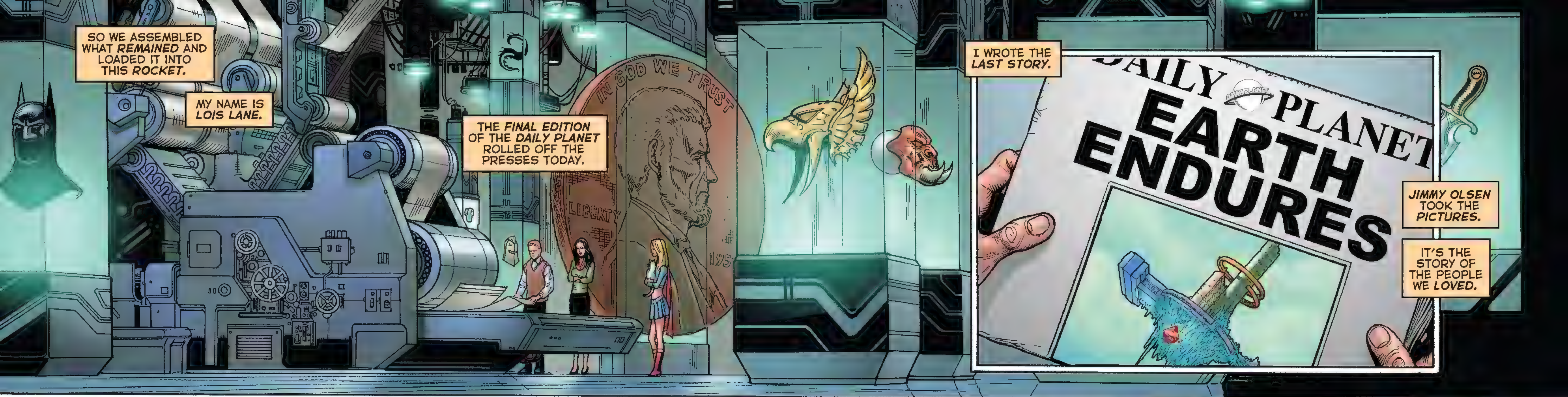
BEYOND THESE WALLS,
THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT THAT ISN'T THE
FOREVER PIT *DARKSEID*
DRAGGED US ALL INTO.

A CRUMBLING SHARD
FROM A *PARALLEL*
UNIVERSE COLLIDED
WITH US THIS MORNING...
IF THE UNENDING
DARKNESS CAN BE CALLED
"MORNING" ANYMORE.

THIS ONE BROUGHT
THE *METAL MEN*
FROM *EARTH-44*, AND
THEIR HUMAN LEADER
"DOC" *TORNADO*.

WHEN OUR *MAGNETIC*
FIELD SENT THEM
BERSERK, THEY
ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT
"TECHNOCIDE" AND
THE *TROPHY ROOM*
WAS WRECKED.

IRREPLACEABLE
MEMENTOES WERE
LOST FOREVER.



SO WE ASSEMBLED
WHAT REMAINED AND
LOADED IT INTO
THIS ROCKET.

MY NAME IS
LOIS LANE.

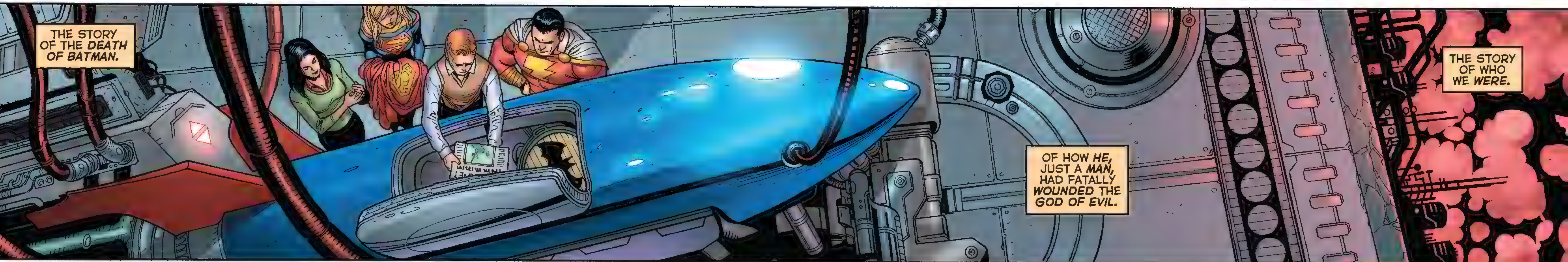
THE FINAL EDITION
OF THE DAILY PLANET
ROLLED OFF THE
PRESSES TODAY.

I WROTE THE
LAST STORY.

DAILY PLANET
**EARTH
ENDURES**

JIMMY OLSEN
TOOK THE
PICTURES.

IT'S THE
STORY OF
THE PEOPLE
WE LOVED.



THE STORY
OF THE DEATH
OF BATMAN.

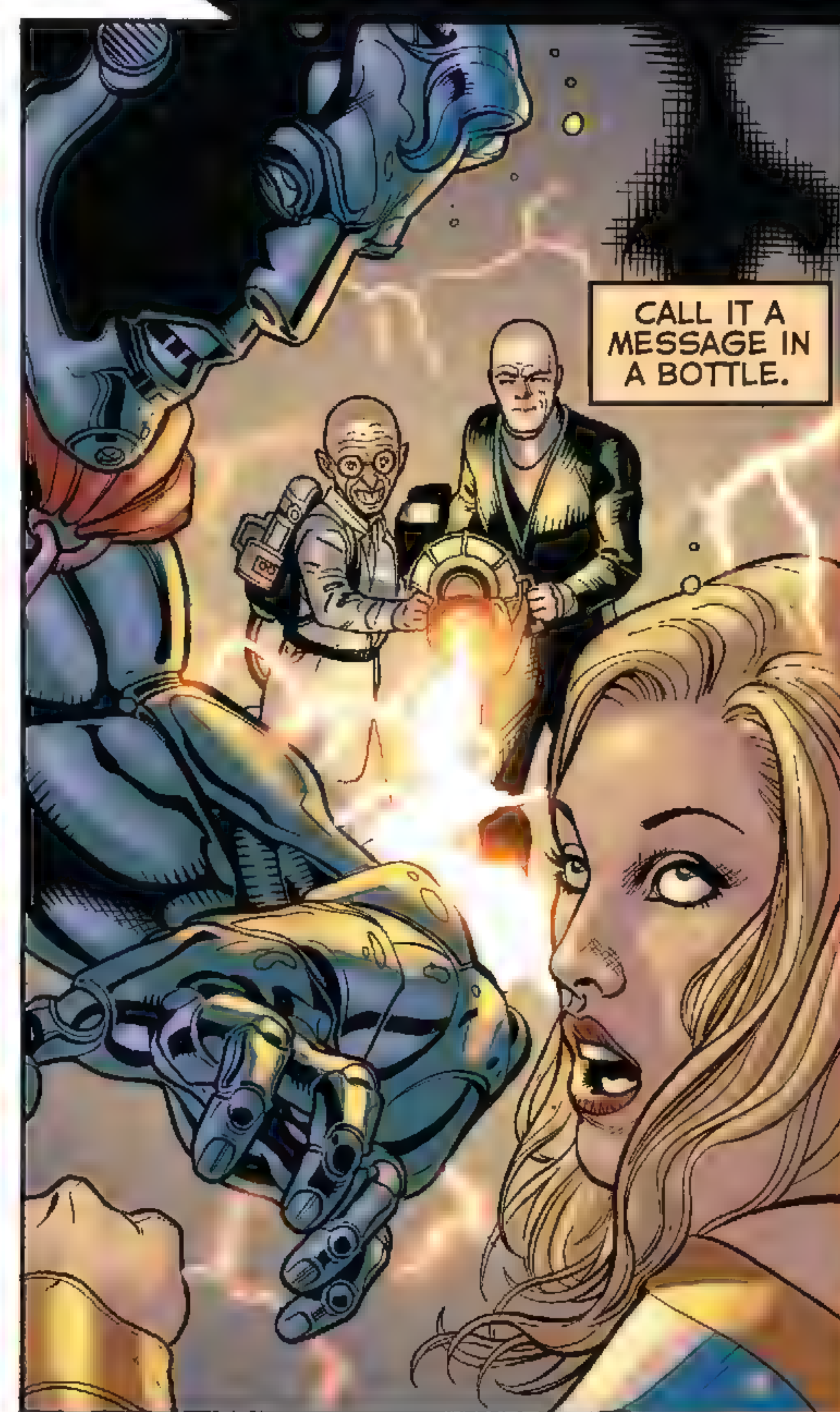
OF HOW HE,
JUST A MAN,
HAD FATALLY
WOUNDED THE
GOD OF EVIL.

THE STORY
OF WHO
WE WERE.



AND
WHAT WE
STOOD
FOR.

AND HOW
WE FOUGHT
FOR WHAT WE
BELIEVED
IN, UNTIL THE
VERY END.



CALL IT A
MESSAGE IN
A BOTTLE.



MAYBE
SOMEONE,
SOMEWHERE,
WILL FIND IT.

AND READ THE
STORY OF THE
FINAL CRISIS.

DARKSEID.

YOU TURNED
YOUR BACK AND I
WRECKED YOUR
WORLD.

I ROBBED YOUR
PEOPLE OF THEIR
POWERS, THEIR HOPES,
THEIR FUTURE,
THEMSELVES.

WHAT WILL
YOU DO WHEN
YOUR FRIENDS,
YOUR ENEMIES, YOUR
LOVER, ARE ALL
DARKSEID?

WHEN THERE
IS ONE BODY.
ONE MIND.

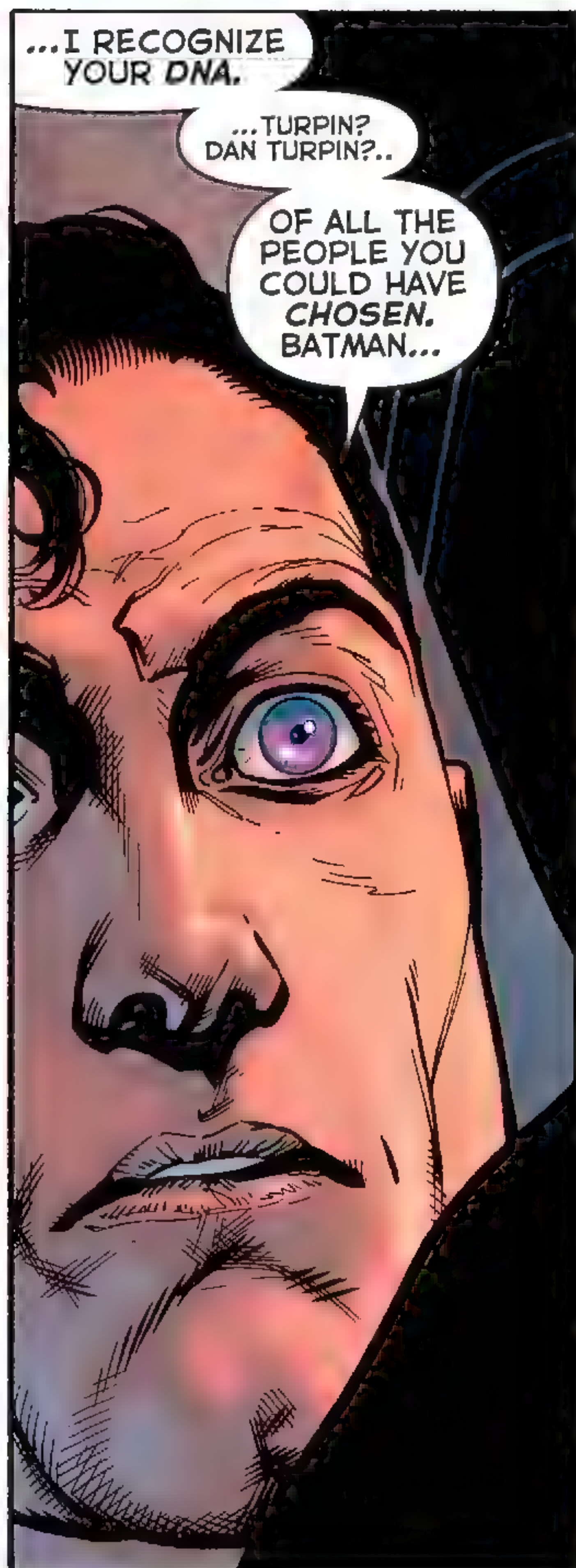
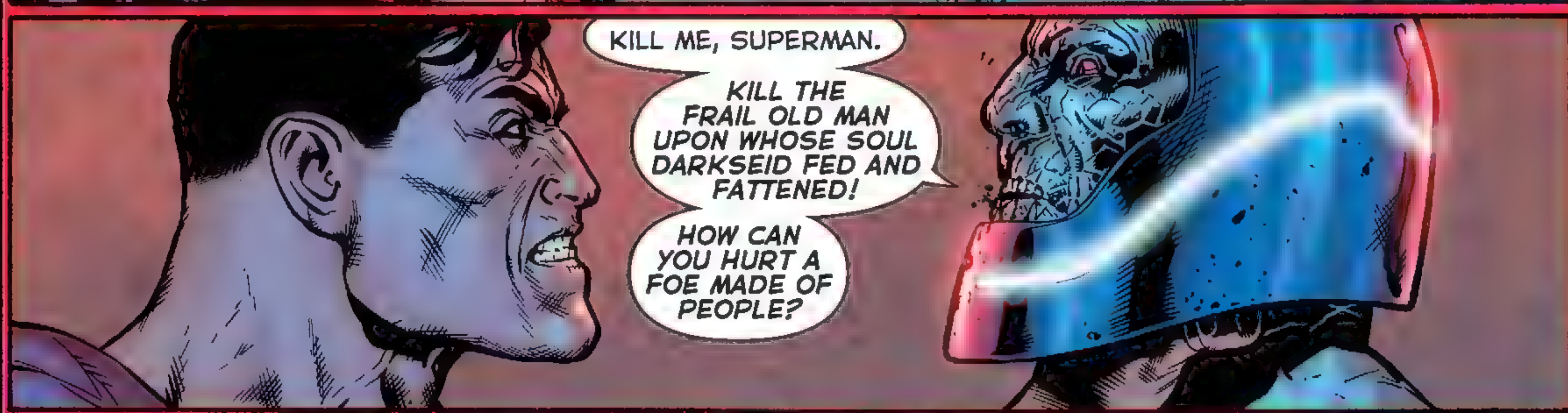
ONE WILL.

ONE
LIFE THAT IS
DARKSEID.

WILL
YOU BE THE
ENEMY OF ALL
EXISTENCE,
THEN?

WHAT
IRONY THAT
WILL BE, SON OF
KRYPTON.

HA HA HA
HA HA HA





IT IS
ALREADY
OVER.

THE SUN HAS SET
FOREVER.

THERE
IS A *BLACK*
HOLE WHERE
MY HEART
SHOULD
BE.



NOW,
SUPERMAN.

ARE YOU READY
TO JOIN *BATMAN* IN
OBLIVION?

CAN
YOU OUTPACE
THE *OMEGA*
SANCTION?

MAYBE
I WON'T
HAVE TO.

YOU DIDN'T
GET ALL OF US,
DARKSEID.

IT'S
NOT OVER
YET.



AND THEN IT SEEMED
AS IF THE SUN HAD
RISEN IN THE *WEST*.



AS IF THE
DAWN WAS
MADE OF
LIGHTNING.

AND THE
APPROACHING
THUNDER
BECAME THE
ROAR OF A
GUNSHOT
YET TO BE.



WE'RE
APPROACHING *NEVER*
ENDING *INSTANT*!

THE
ULTIMATE
STOP SIGN!

CAN'T
LET HIM CATCH
US YET!

NOT
YET!



FROM HERE, WHERE HE NO LONGER EXISTS, ORION CANNOT SEE ME.

AS ALL TIME BECOMES ONE TIME, THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE.

TAKE AIM.

ONLY WE CAN DIVERT THOSE OMEGA FINDER BEAMS!

AT LIGHT SPEED TIME STOPS! DEATH TOO!

FLASH FACT.

DON'T YOU SEE?

THIS WAS NEVER ABOUT MY LIFE, WALLY.

I CAME BACK TO SAVE SUPERMAN!

WE DID IT WALLY! NOW GO!

THINK I'D LEAVE YOU TO DO THIS ON YOUR OWN?

TOGETHER, BARRY!

WE'RE GOING INTO TOGETHER AND WE'RE COMING BACK TOGETHER!

BARRY ALLEN?

THE TERMINAL MOMENT IS HERE.

NO.

NOT YOU.



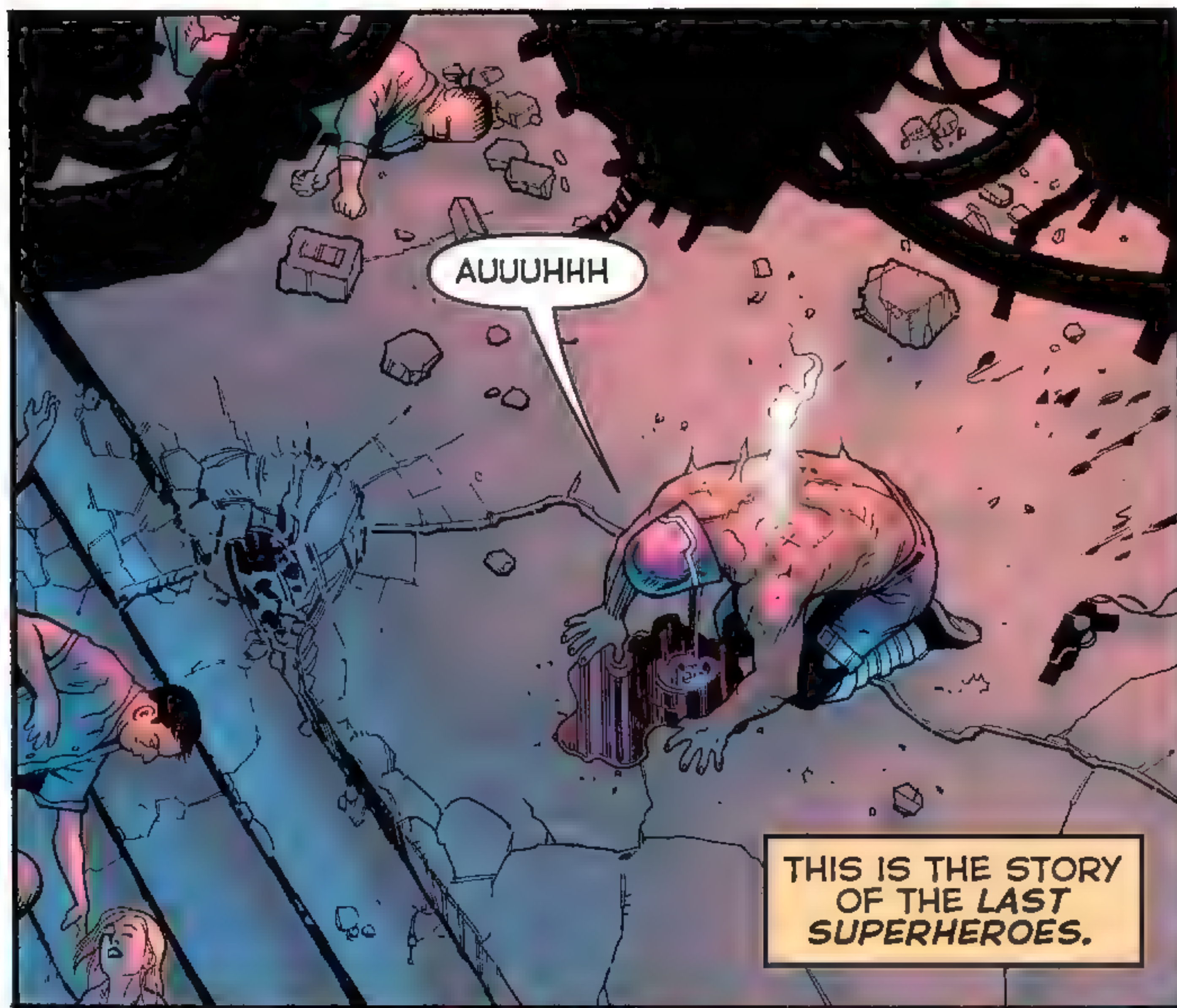
I COME TO ALL!
EVEN YOU!

THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW THE FLASHES OUTRAN DEATH, THE *BLACK RACER*.



ON SEA-STORM!

THE STORY OF ARTHUR OF ATLANTIS, PROPHESED TO RETURN IN HIS PEOPLE'S TIME OF GREATEST NEED.



AUUUHHH

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE LAST SUPERHEROES.



...IN US...
IN ALL OF US...

AND THE MACHINE THEY MADE TO SAVE THE WORLD.



...SO WHAT IS IT?

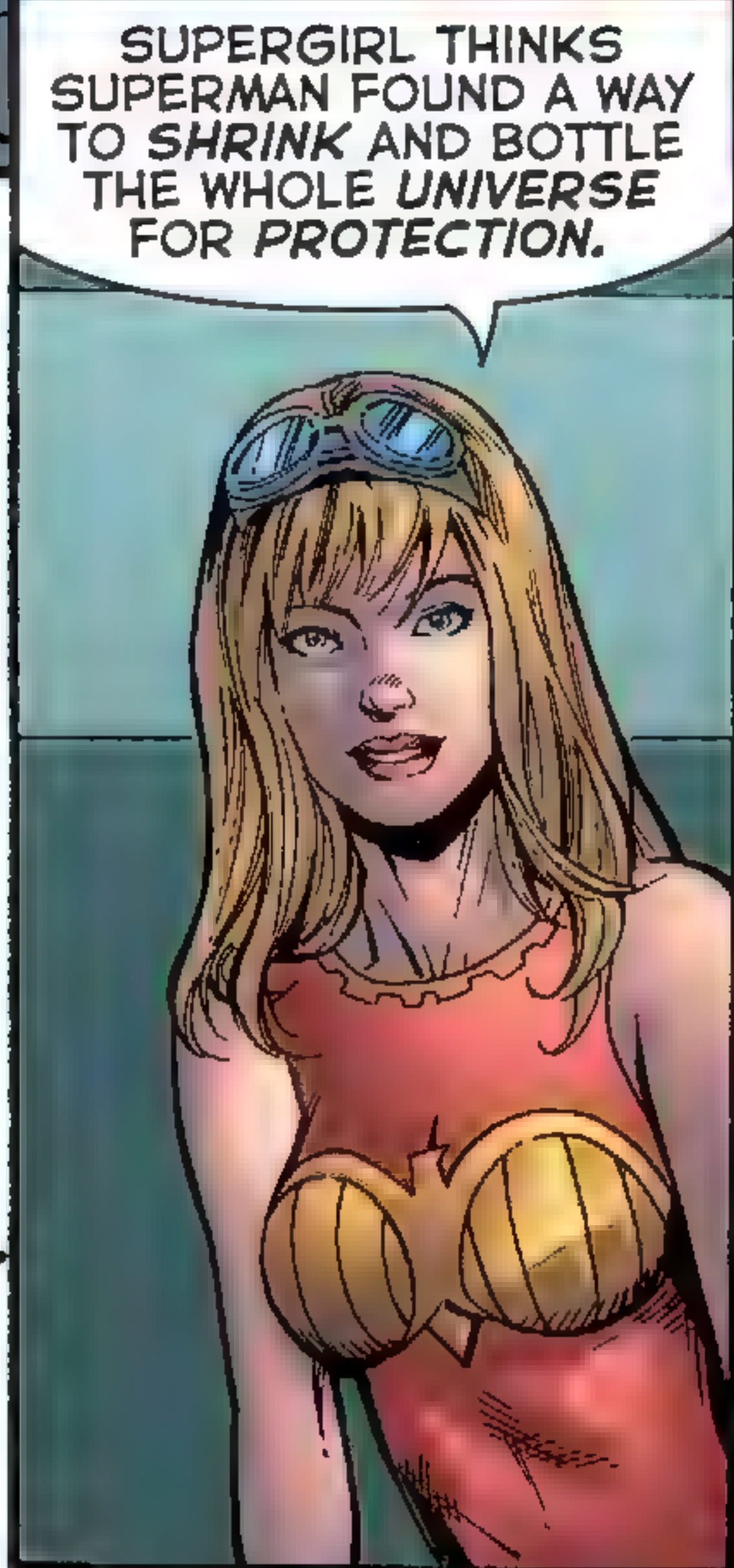
WHAT ARE THEY BUILDING?



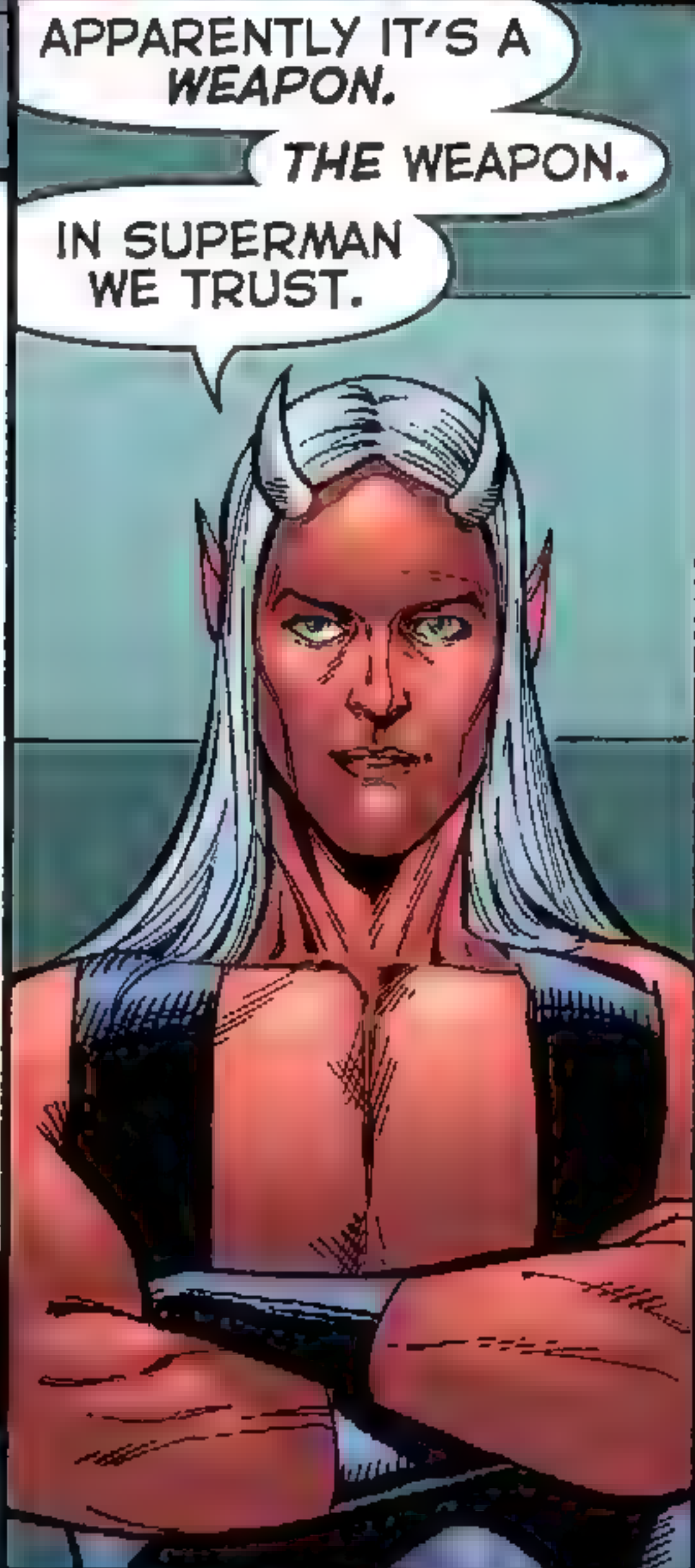
SOME KIND OF OMNI-COMPUTER.

SOMETHING THAT CAN CALCULATE THE LIFE EQUATION.

A SUPER-COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE--LIKE A CELLPHONE TO THE GODS, I HEARD.



SUPERGIRL THINKS SUPERMAN FOUND A WAY TO SHRINK AND BOTTLE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE FOR PROTECTION.



APPARENTLY IT'S A WEAPON.

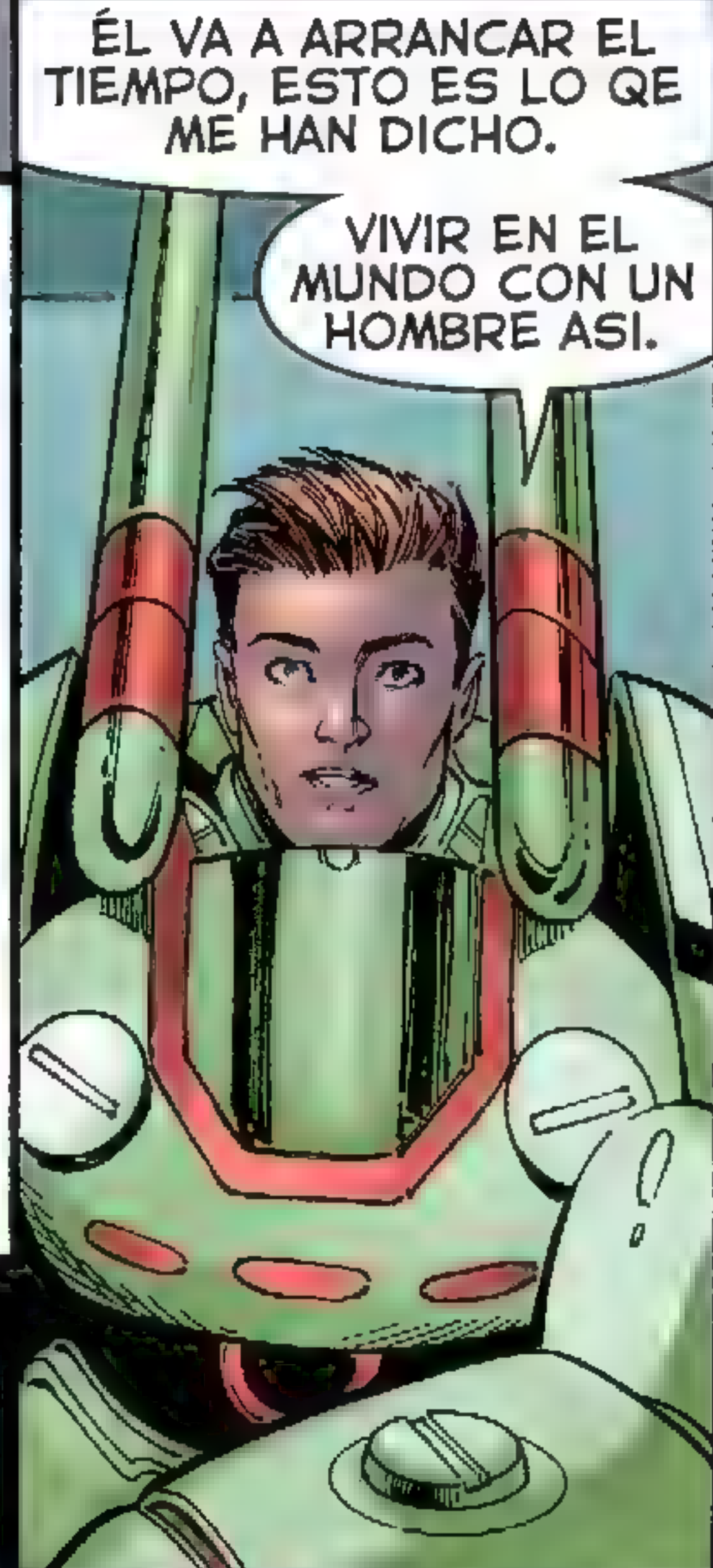
THE WEAPON.

IN SUPERMAN WE TRUST.



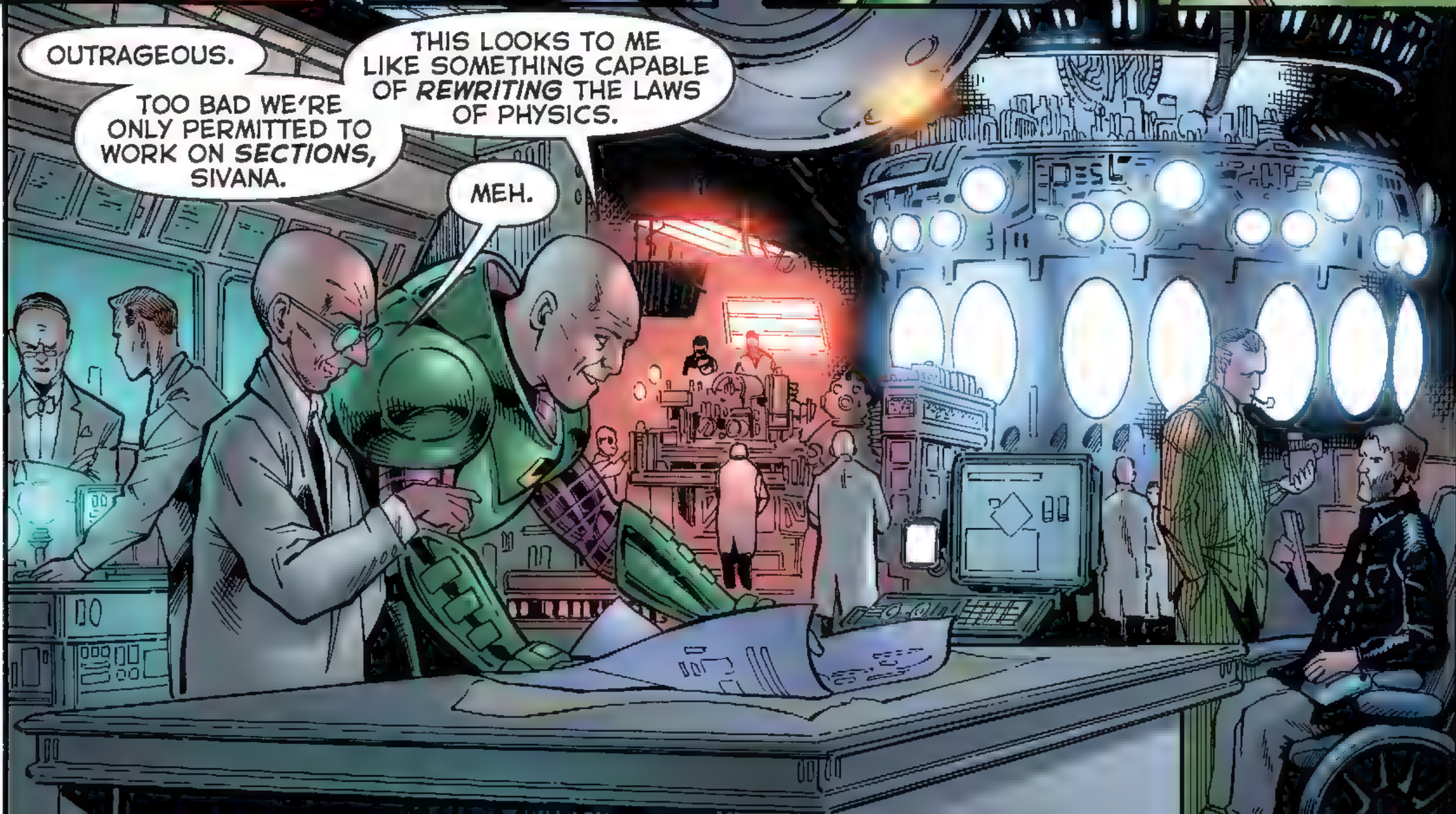
A WILL-POWERED MACHINE THAT MAKES GL POWER RING TECH LOOK LIKE A SLIDESHOW PROJECTOR?

IF MY RING CAN HELP, HERE IT IS.



ÉL VA A ARRANCAR EL TIEMPO, ESTO ES LO QUE ME HAN DICHO.

VIVIR EN EL MUNDO CON UN HOMBRE ASI.



OUTRAGEOUS.

TOO BAD WE'RE ONLY PERMITTED TO WORK ON SECTIONS, SIVANA.

THIS LOOKS TO ME LIKE SOMETHING CAPABLE OF REWRITING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS.

MEH.



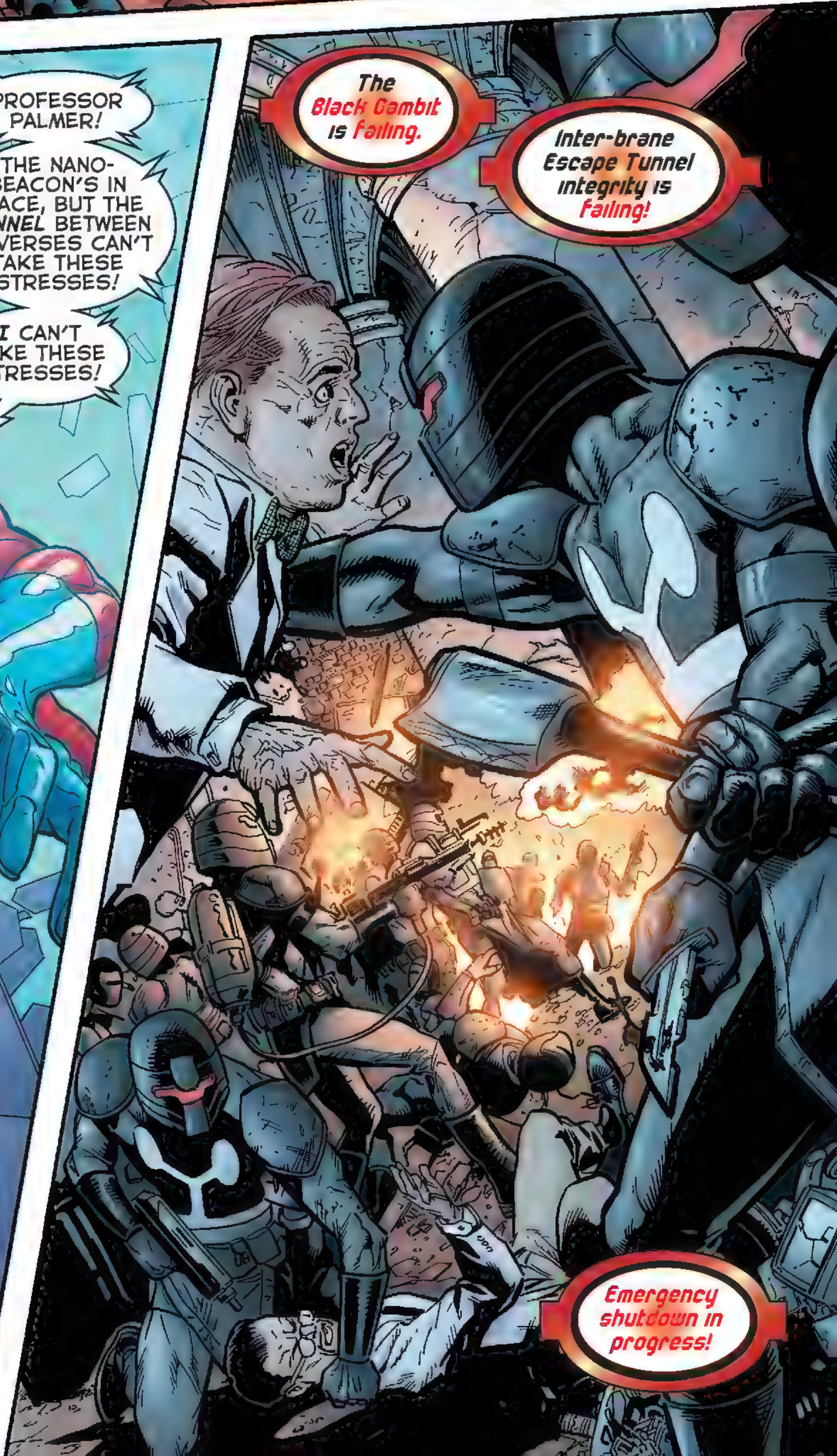
THIS IS HOW
CHECKMATE WENT
DOWN FIGHTING.



PROFESSOR
PALMER!

THE NANO-
BEACON'S IN
PLACE, BUT THE
TUNNEL BETWEEN
UNIVERSES CAN'T
TAKE THESE
STRESSES!

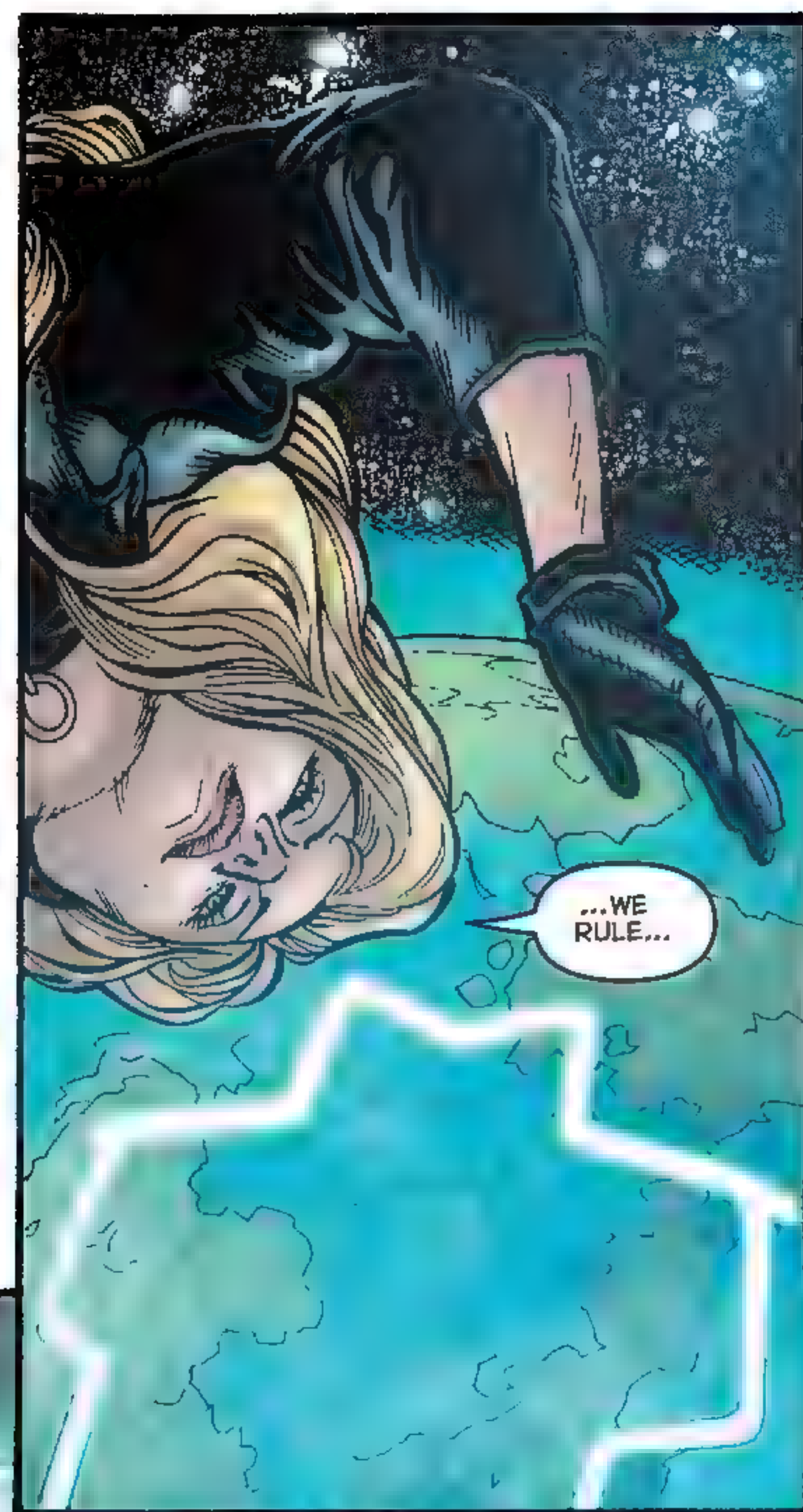
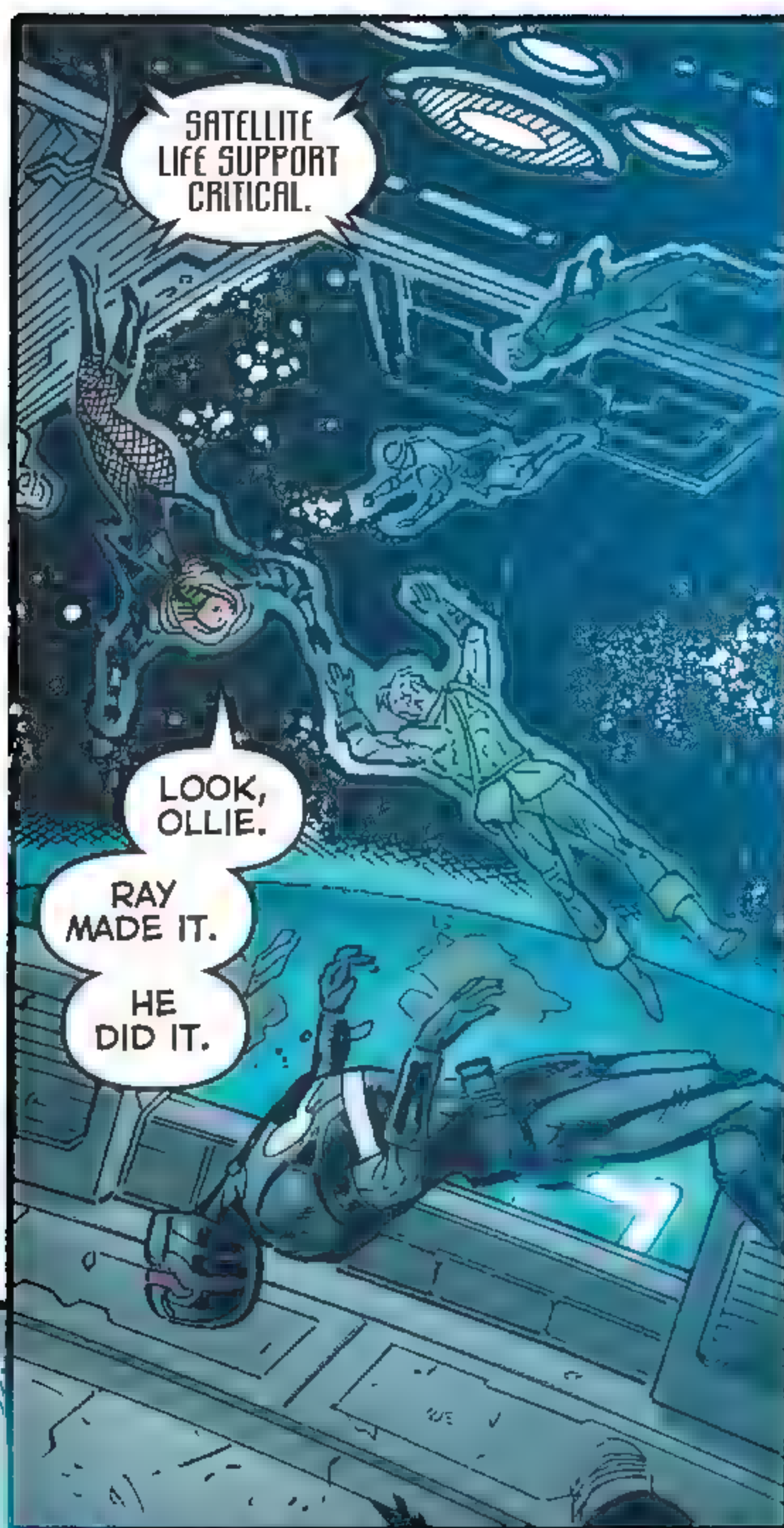
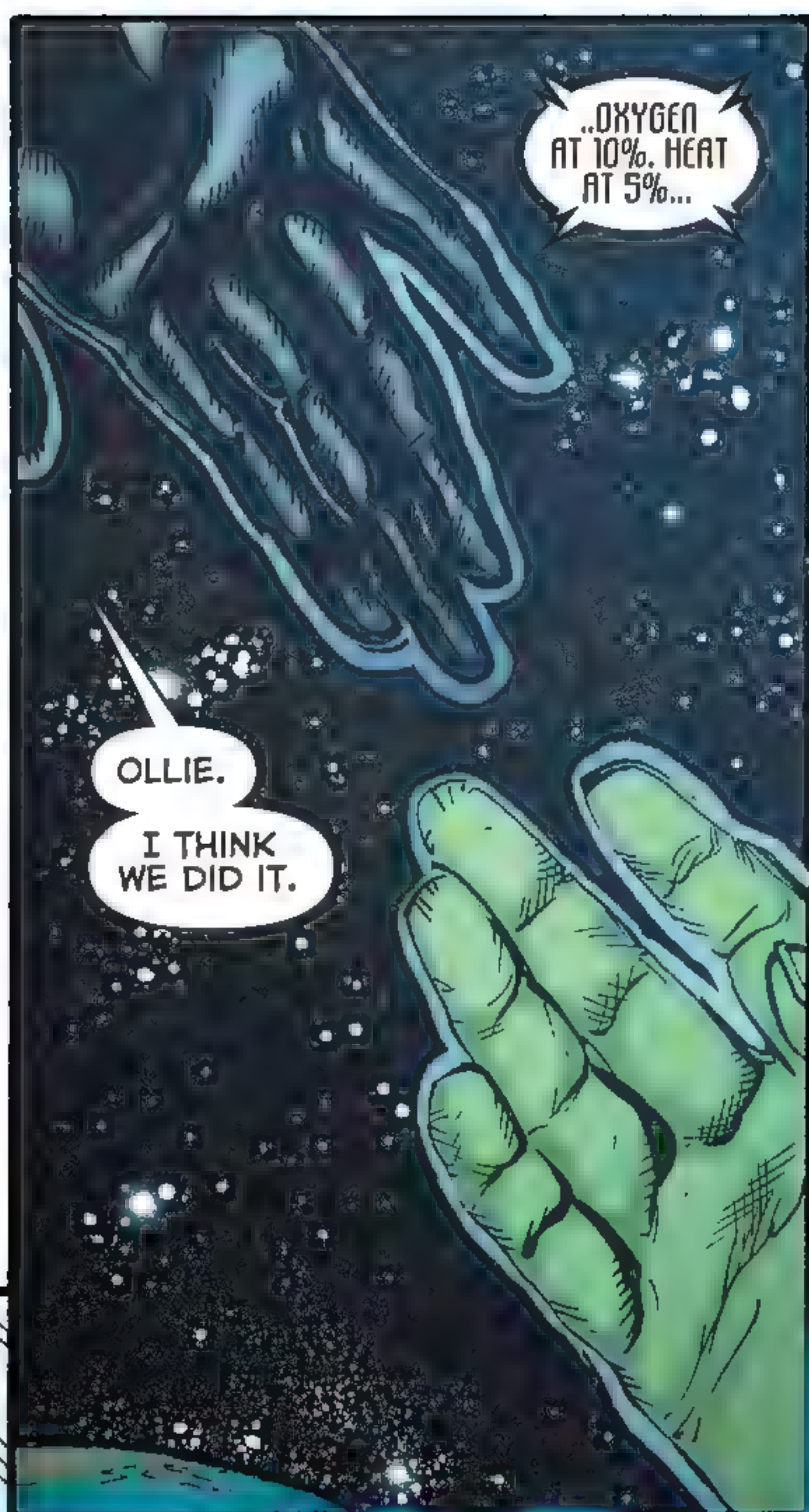
I CAN'T
TAKE THESE
STRESSES!



The
Black Gambit
is *failing*.

Inter-brane
Escape Tunnel
integrity is
failing!

Emergency
shutdown in
progress!



AND THIS IS HOW IT ENDS.

...IMAGINE TWO WHOLE UNIVERSES SHEARING APART AS THE LIFELINE CONNECTING THEM WAS SNAPPED!

What year is this?

Is it a test?

LORD EYE'S HAVING A BREAKDOWN AND CLOSING THE TUNNEL!

THOSE PEOPLE WILL DIE IF I DON'T STOP HIM, KENDRA!

DAMN YOU, CARTER!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS ALONE!

TIME!
SPACE!

I GOT HER! I GOT HER!

WHERE ARE YOU, LIGHTNING FLASH!

SHREDDING!

EVERYTHING IS SPLITTING UP!

SONIC LIGHTNING FLASH!

I LOVE YOU!

BUT I LOVE YOU.

CATCH HER!!!

CAN'T SEEM TO RUN

FAST ENOUGH

KEIGO!

HOW DID IT GET SO COLD?

WHERE ARE MY OMACS?!

HOW THE HELL DID WE GET HERE?

WHERE ARE WE?

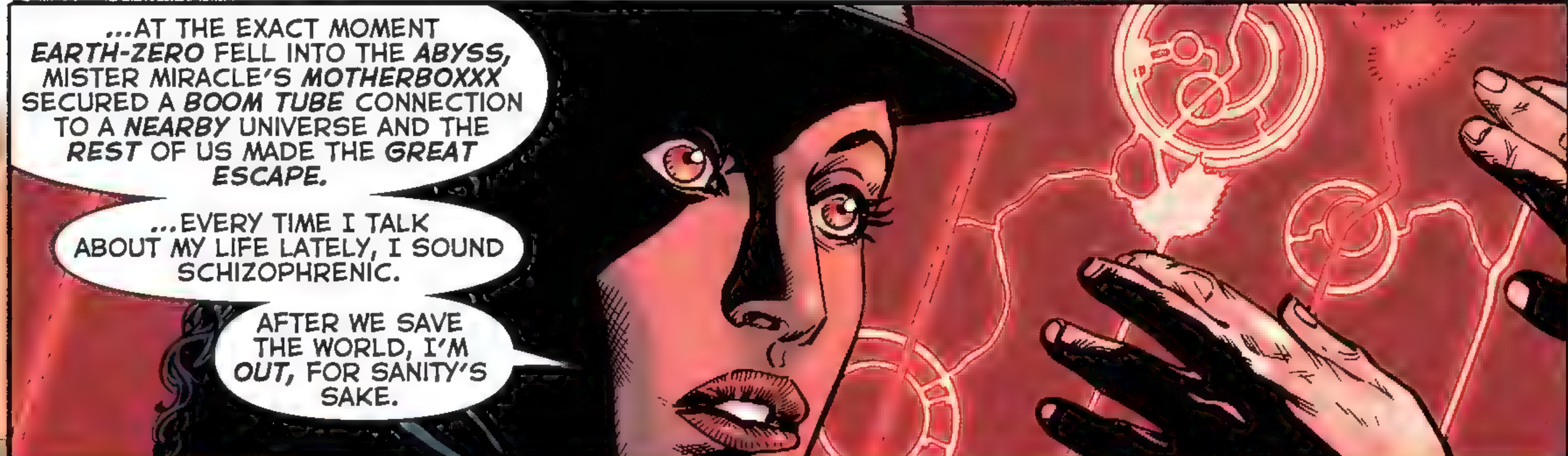
WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO

BOOM

...AT THE EXACT MOMENT EARTH-ZERO FELL INTO THE ABYSS, MISTER MIRACLE'S MOTHERBOXXX SECURED A BOOM TUBE CONNECTION TO A NEARBY UNIVERSE AND THE REST OF US MADE THE GREAT ESCAPE.

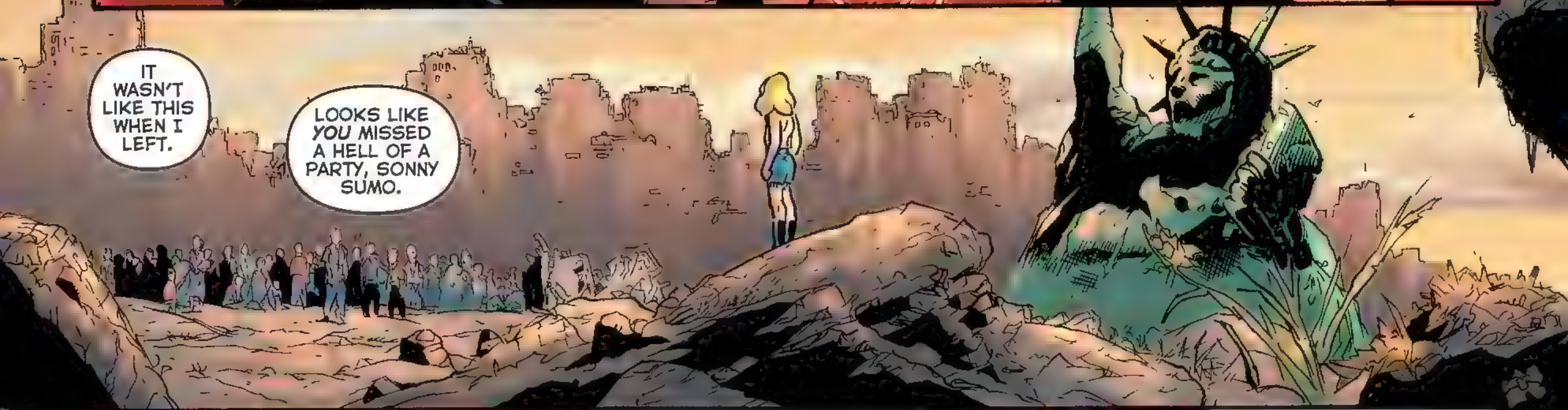
...EVERY TIME I TALK ABOUT MY LIFE LATELY, I SOUND SCHIZOPHRENIC.

AFTER WE SAVE THE WORLD, I'M OUT, FOR SANITY'S SAKE.



IT WASN'T LIKE THIS WHEN I LEFT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU MISSED A HELL OF A PARTY, SONNY SUMO.

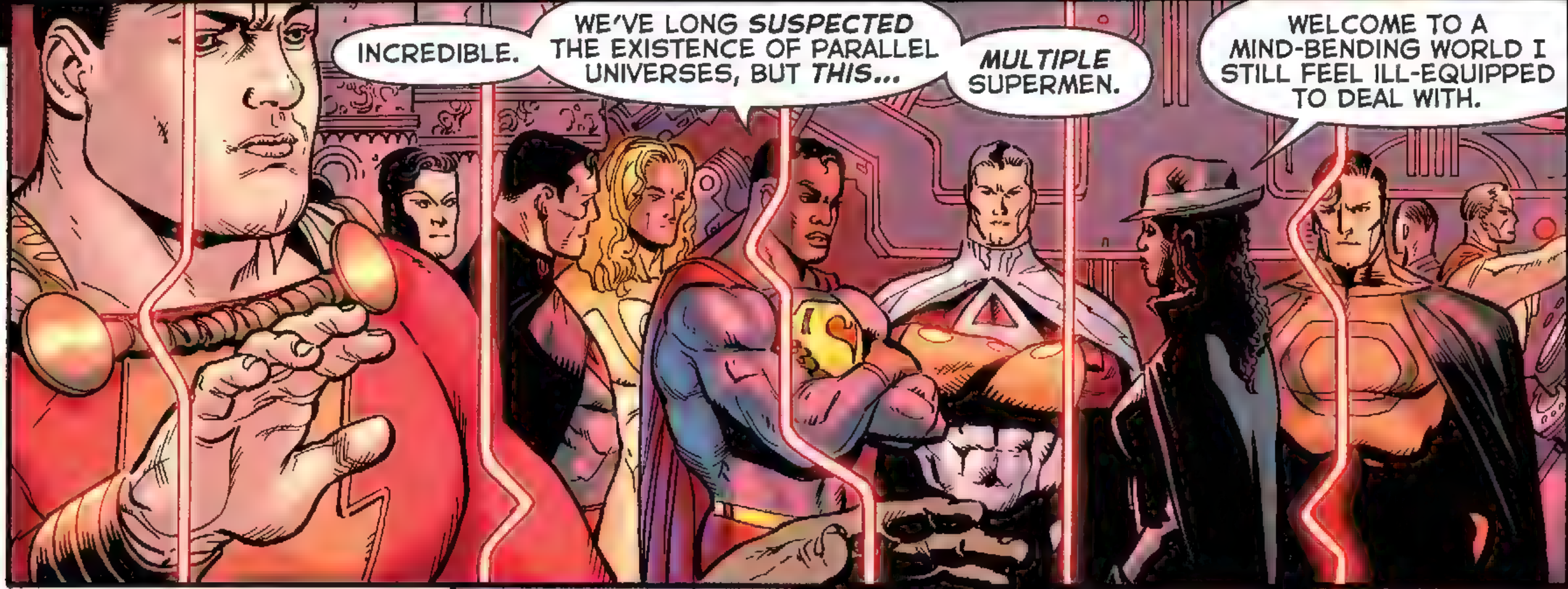


INCREDIBLE.

WE'VE LONG SUSPECTED THE EXISTENCE OF PARALLEL UNIVERSES, BUT THIS...

MULTIPLE SUPERMEN.

WELCOME TO A MIND-BENDING WORLD I STILL FEEL ILL-EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH.



AND YET YOU VOLUNTEERED TO ACCOMPANY THE CHAMPIONS OF ALMOST 50 WORLDS ON A VOYAGE WITH PERHAPS NO RETURN.

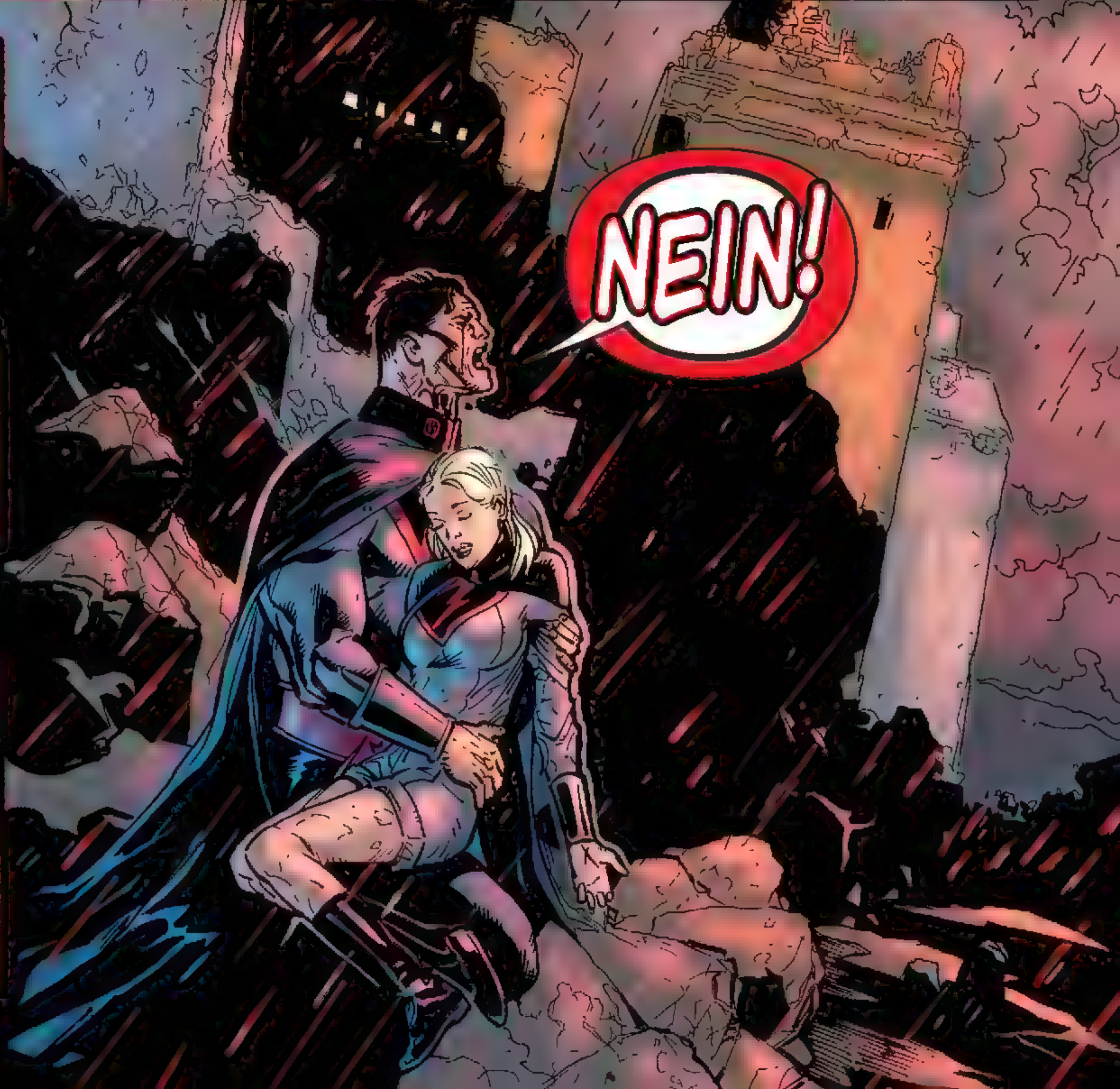
I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS BACK ON EARTH... "EARTH-ZERO."

I WOULDN'T WANT TO LET 'EM DOWN.

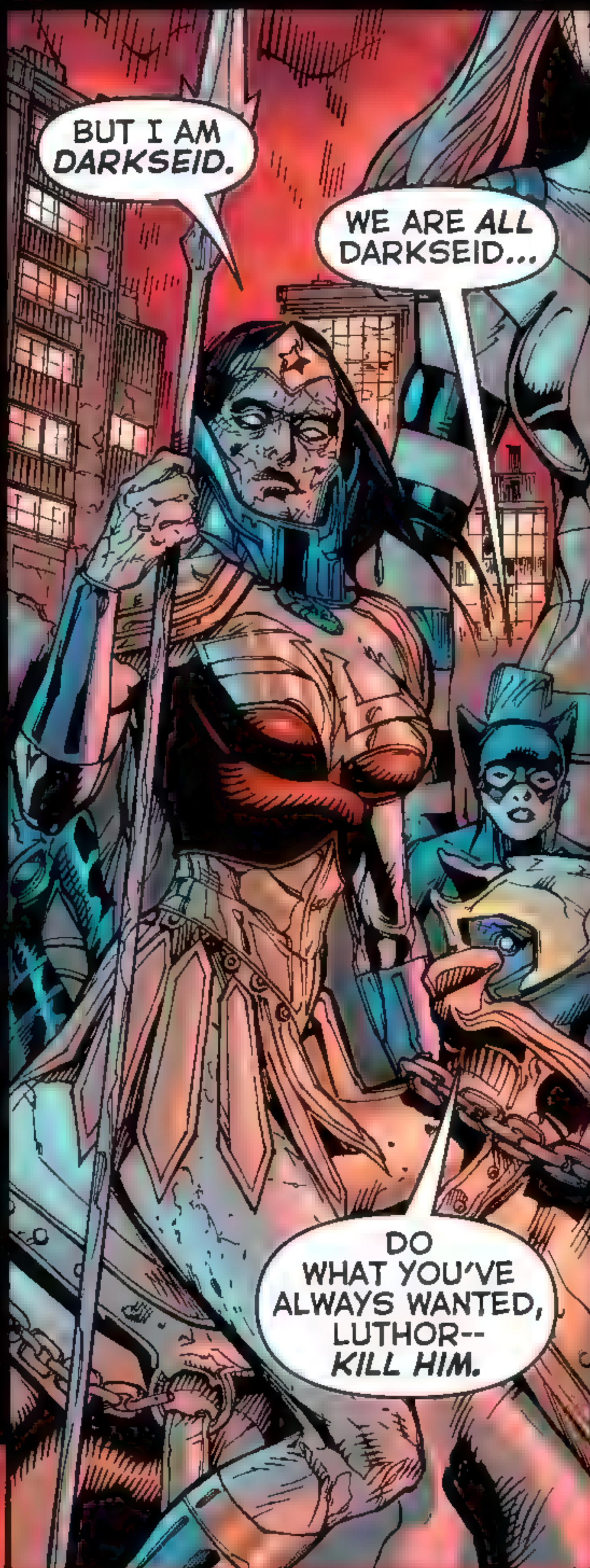
OVERMAN, WHATEVER, I THINK I MET YOUR COUSIN AND... I'M SO SORRY, I...

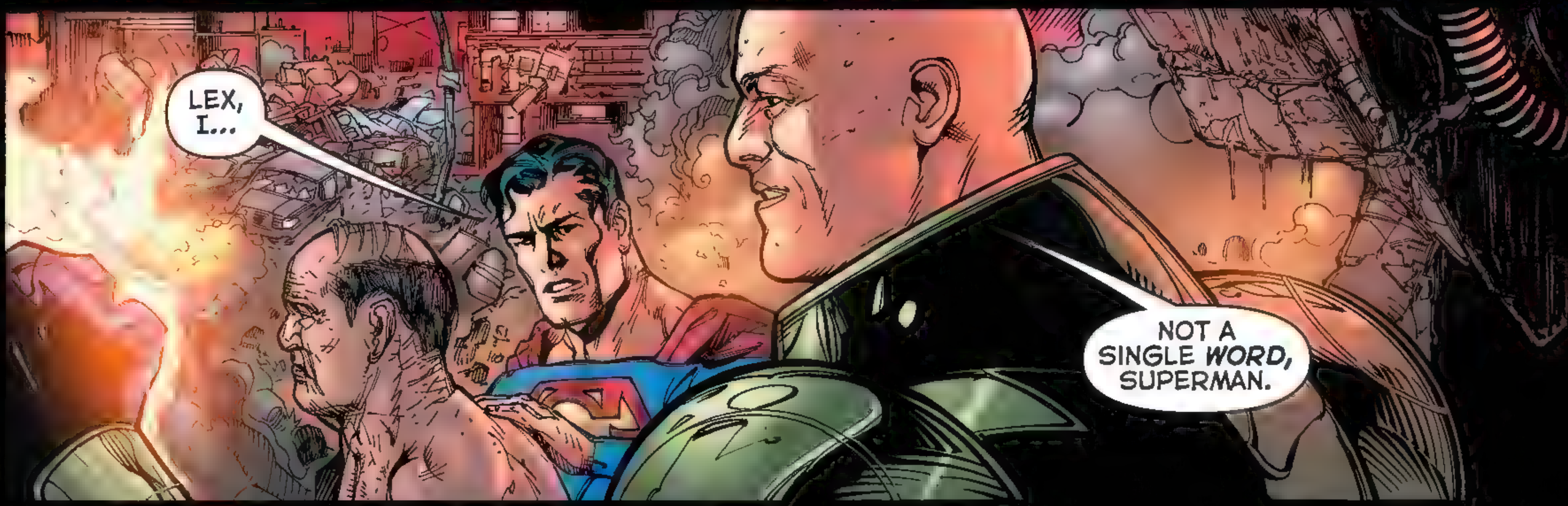
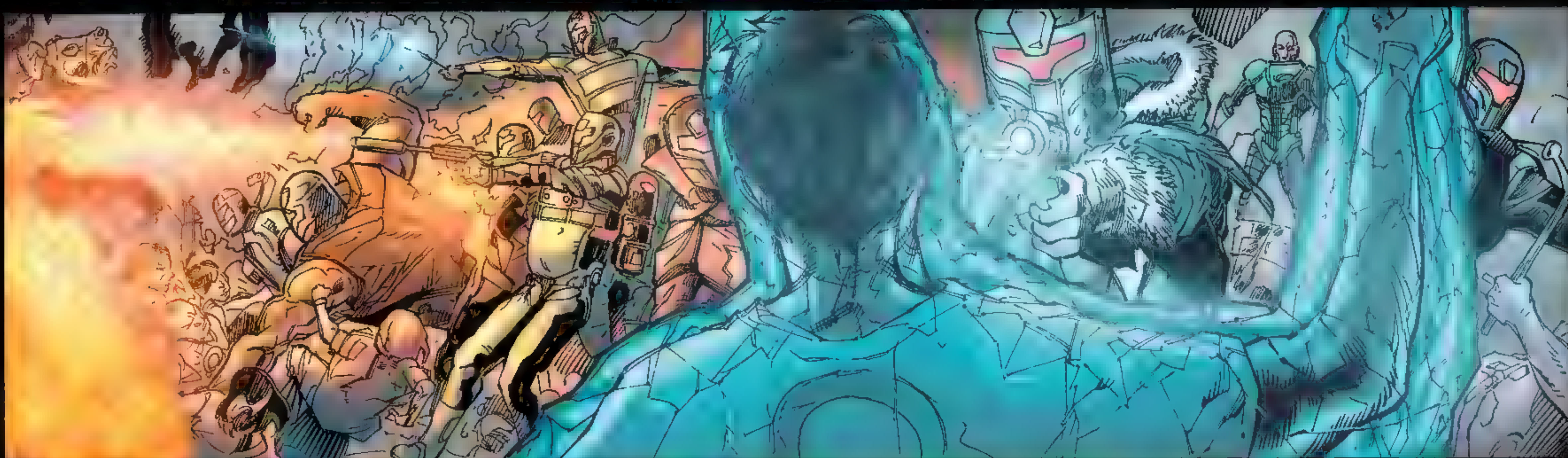
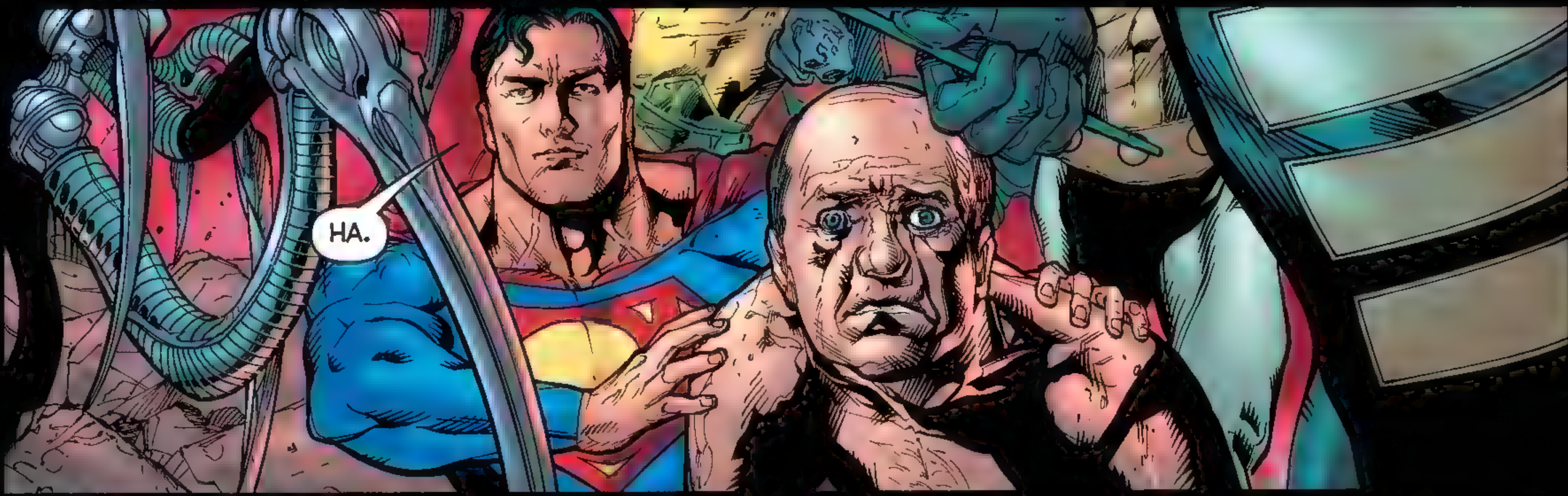


NEIN!









THAT WAS HOW SUPERMAN STOOD ALONE AGAINST AN ARMY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-VILLIANS.

AND WON.

WHEN WE'RE DONE, IT'S TIME FOR BED, CHILDREN.

BUT FIRST LET ME TELL YOU HOW I WAS INTRODUCED TO FRANKENSTEIN.



MORTICOCCUS, THE GOD-BACTERIUM DESIGNED TO STRIP EARTH'S HEROES OF THEIR POWERS, HAD NO EFFECT ON A LIVING DEAD MAN.



AND THE VILLAINS HAD BEEN INOCULATED.

NOT A SINGLE WORD, SUPERMAN.

WE'LL CALL THIS AN HISTORIC FIRST TEAM-UP OF THE FORCES OF "GOOD" AND THE FORCES OF "BAD."

AND I'LL TAKE THE CREDIT FOR A WIN.

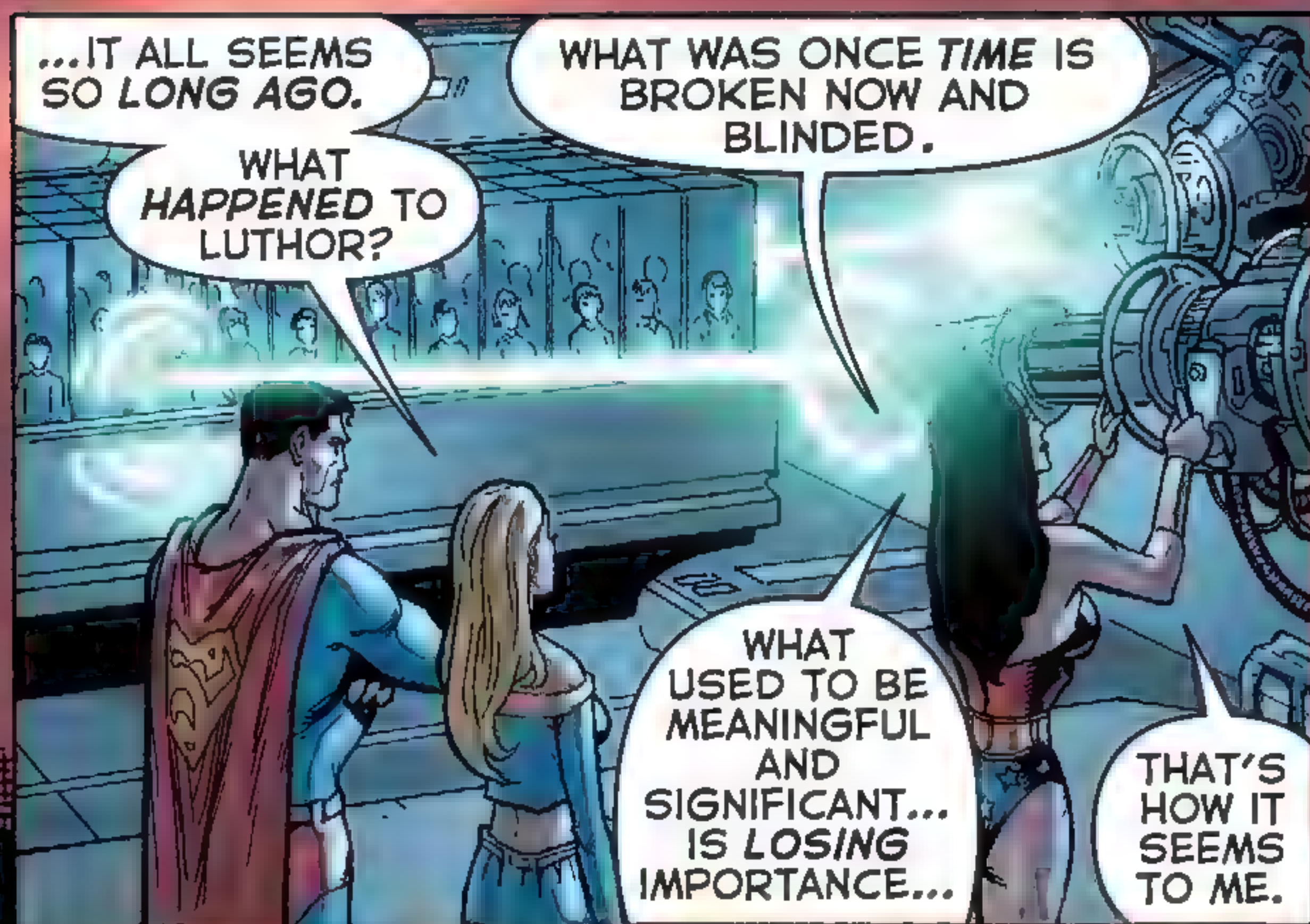


WHATEVER YOU SAY, LEX.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.



KNNF!



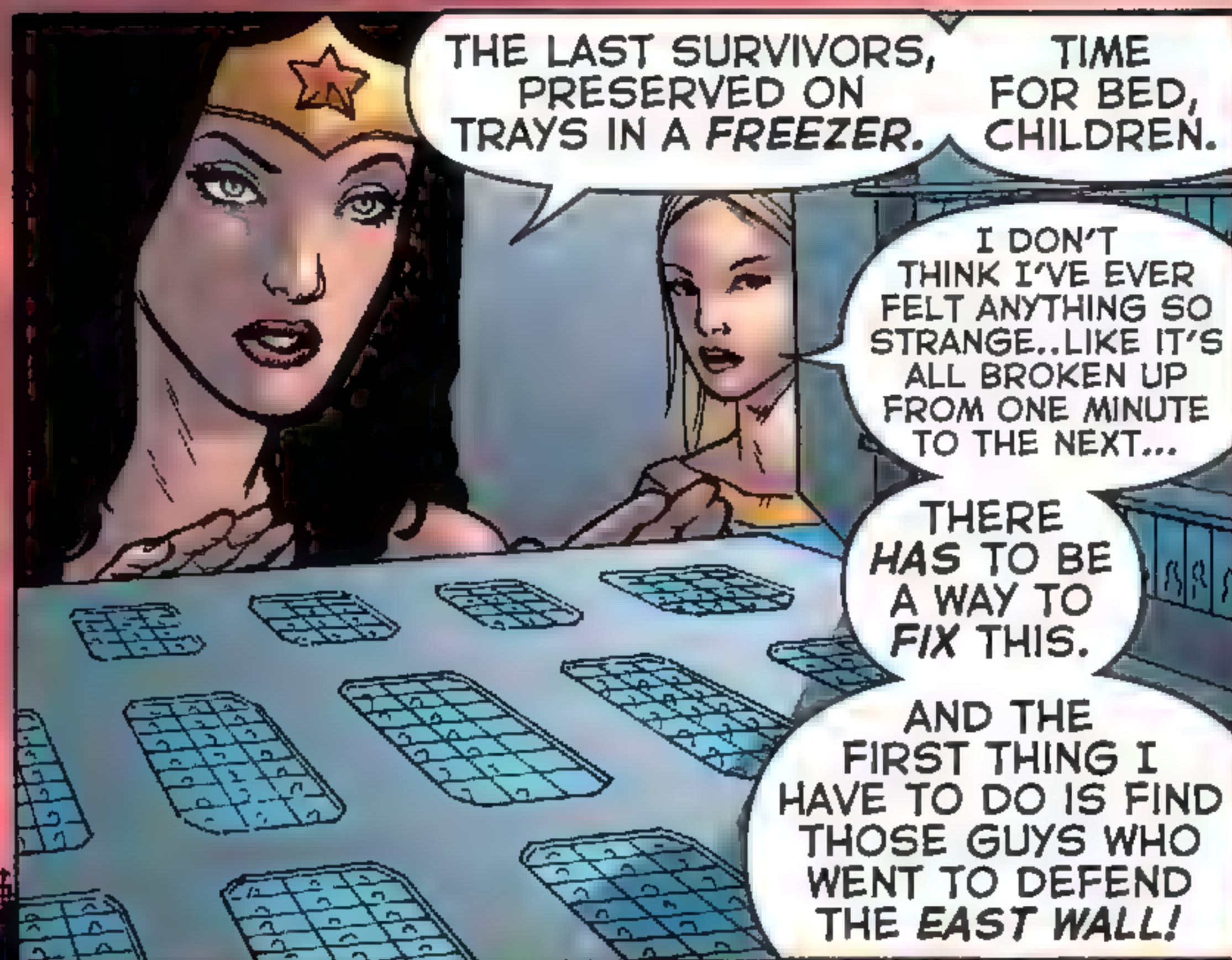
...IT ALL SEEMS SO LONG AGO.

WHAT HAPPENED TO LUTHOR?

WHAT WAS ONCE TIME IS BROKEN NOW AND BLINDED.

WHAT USED TO BE MEANINGFUL AND SIGNIFICANT... IS LOSING IMPORTANCE...

THAT'S HOW IT SEEMS TO ME.



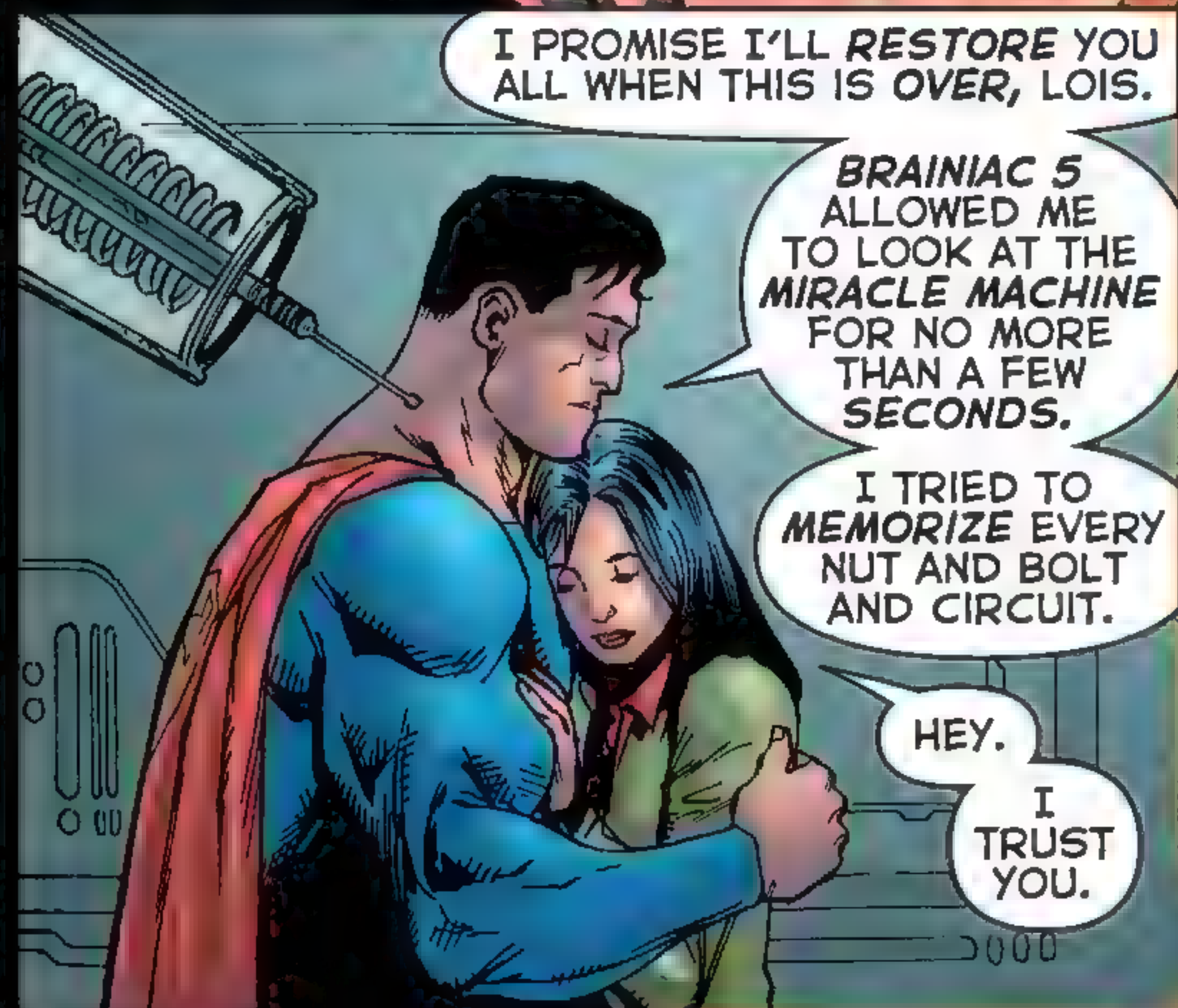
THE LAST SURVIVORS, PRESERVED ON TRAYS IN A FREEZER.

TIME FOR BED, CHILDREN.

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER FELT ANYTHING SO STRANGE... LIKE IT'S ALL BROKEN UP FROM ONE MINUTE TO THE NEXT...

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO FIX THIS.

AND THE FIRST THING I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THOSE GUYS WHO WENT TO DEFEND THE EAST WALL!



I PROMISE I'LL RESTORE YOU ALL WHEN THIS IS OVER, LOIS.

BRAINIAC 5 ALLOWED ME TO LOOK AT THE MIRACLE MACHINE FOR NO MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS.

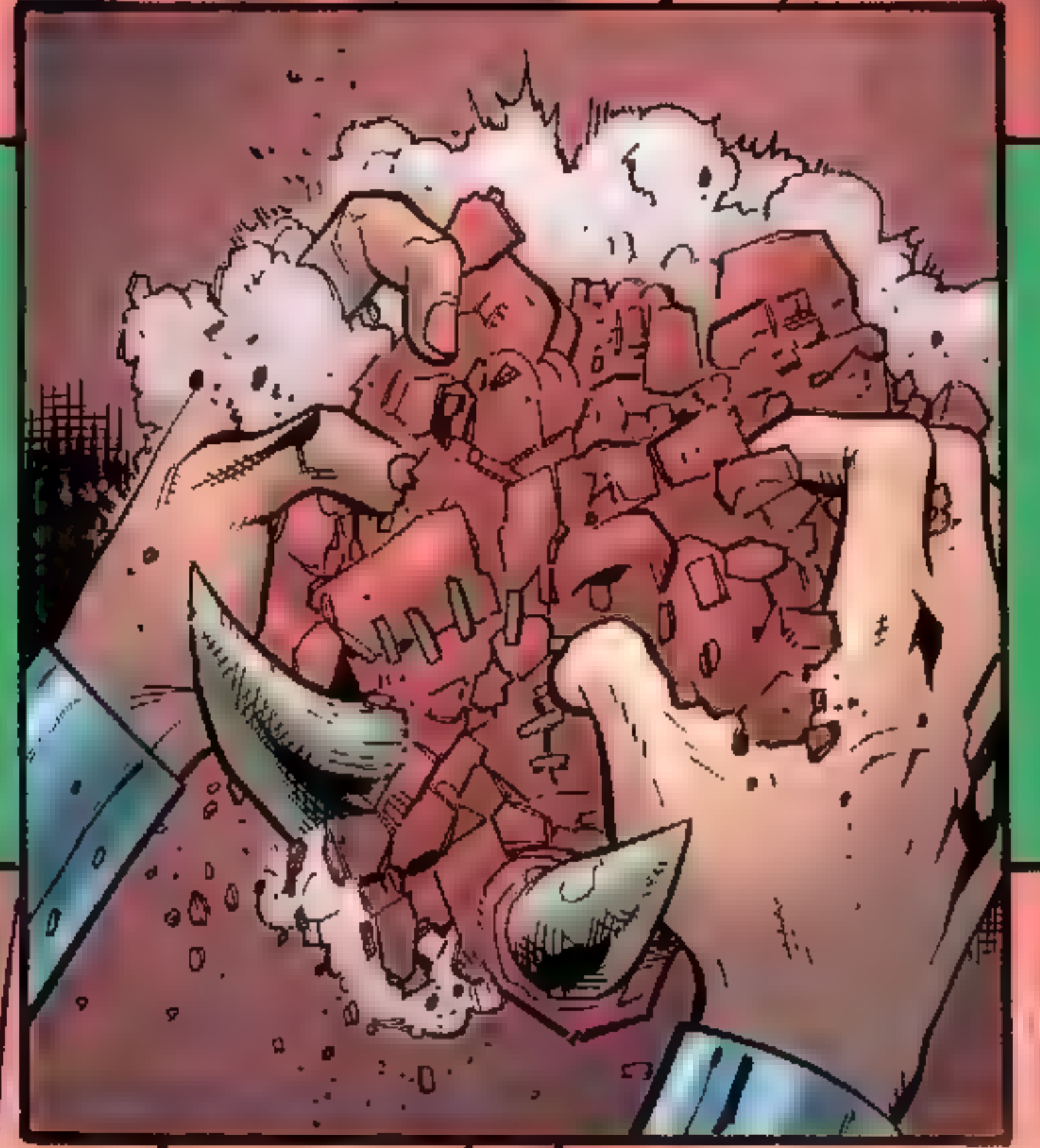
I TRIED TO MEMORIZE EVERY NUT AND BOLT AND CIRCUIT.

HEY.

I TRUST YOU.



AND YOU'LL GET THE BIG KISS WHEN I'M BACK FROM THE FRIDGE, SMALLVILLE.



IT WAS WONDER
WOMAN

WOMAN WHO
BOUND

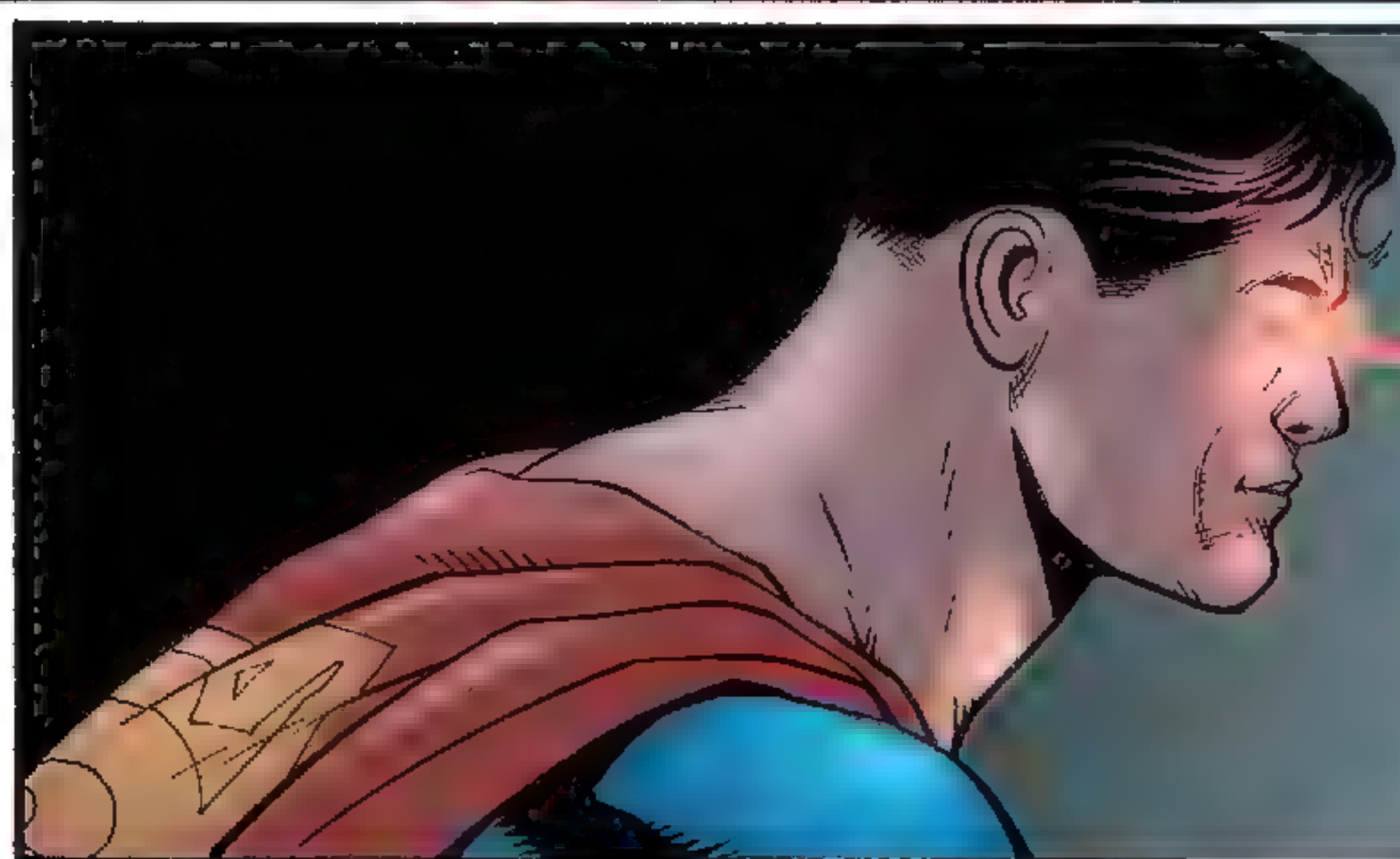
WHO BOUND
DAKSIED'S
BODY.

WITH HER LASSO
OF TRUTH SHE
CHAINED

CHAINED THE
GOD OF EVIL...

AND
NO-ONE

NO-ONE WAS
HURT.



IT'S TAKEN ALL OUR RESOURCES,
THE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE
AND EXPERTISE OF A WHOLE
CULTURE, TO MAKE THE
MIRACLE MACHINE.

ONE CHANCE,
ONE WISH.



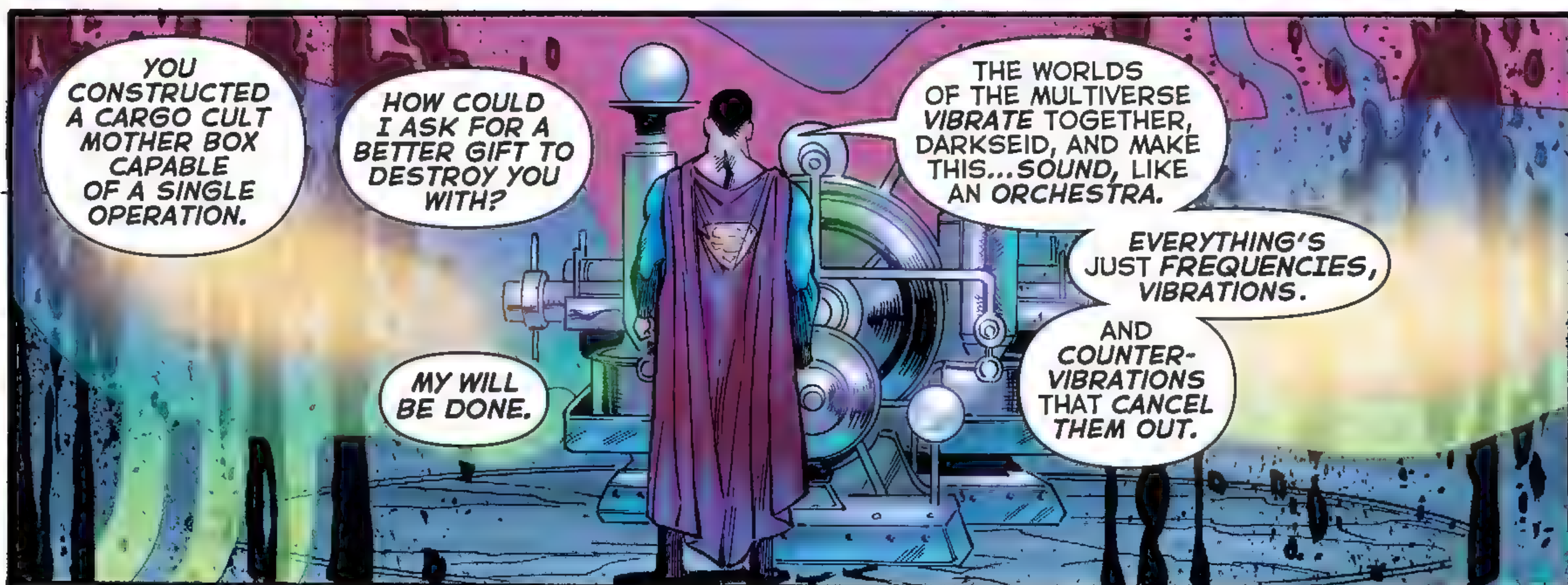
THE WALLS
ARE COMING
DOWN AROUND
YOU.

IT IS OVER,
SUPERMAN.

YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
THAT.

WE'RE ALMOST
AT THE BOTTOM,
WHERE IT ALL ENDS,
WHERE THERE'S
NO MORE FUTURE.

YOU'RE IN THE
FINAL STAGES OF
RADION POISONING,
DARKSEID.



YOU
CONSTRUCTED
A CARGO CULT
MOTHER BOX
CAPABLE
OF A SINGLE
OPERATION.

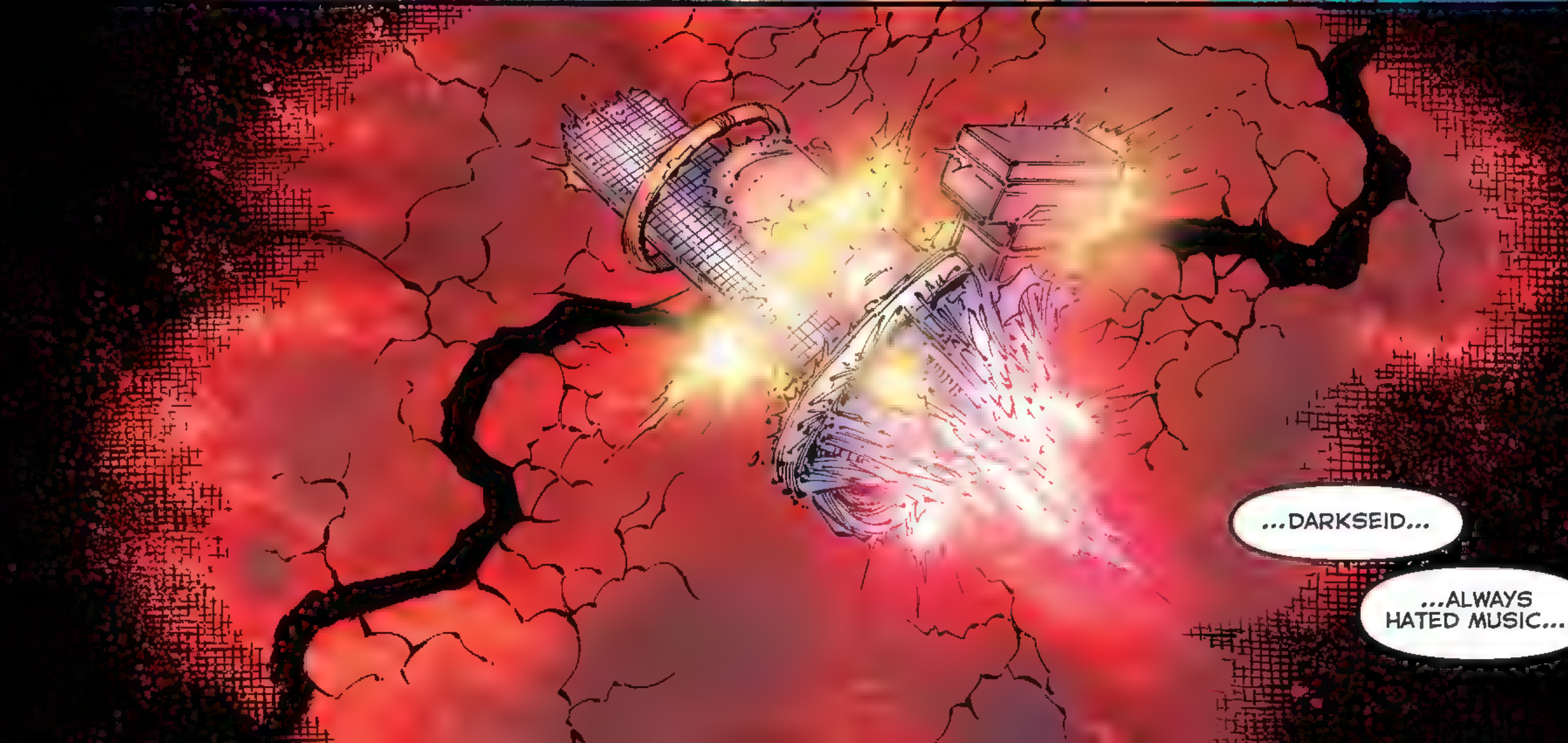
HOW COULD
I ASK FOR A
BETTER GIFT TO
DESTROY YOU
WITH?

THE WORLDS
OF THE MULTIVERSE
VIBRATE TOGETHER,
DARKSEID, AND MAKE
THIS...SOUND, LIKE
AN ORCHESTRA.

EVERYTHING'S
JUST FREQUENCIES,
VIBRATIONS.

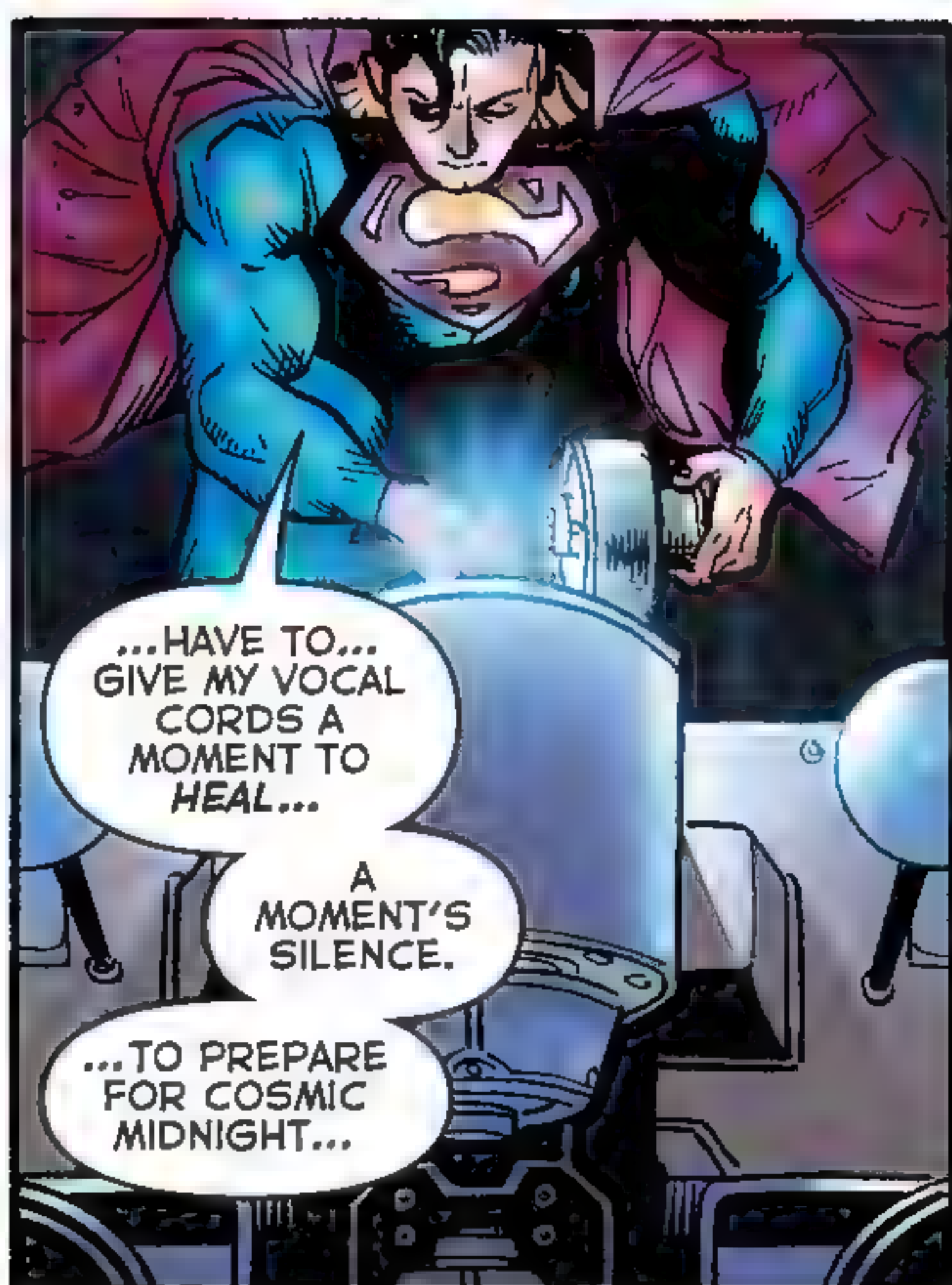
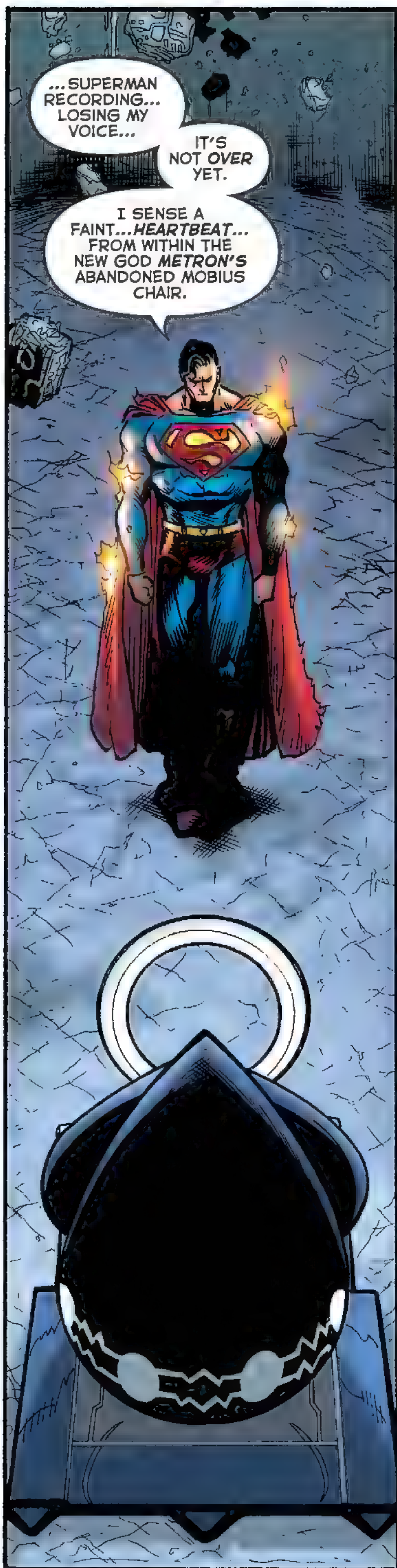
AND
COUNTER-
VIBRATIONS
THAT CANCEL
THEM OUT.

MY WILL
BE DONE.



...DARKSEID...

...ALWAYS
HATED MUSIC...





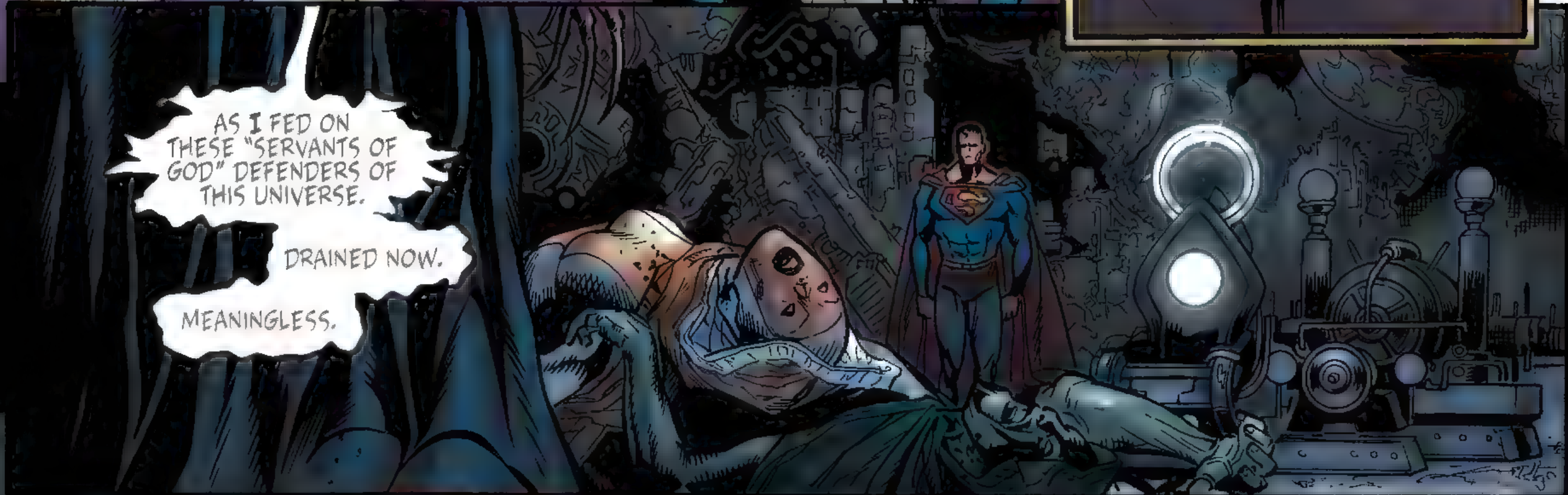
NOW
IT'S YOUR TURN,
SUPERMAN.

THE DYING
GOD LEFT YOUR
UNIVERSE WOUNDED,
BROKEN, DEFENSELESS
AND ALONE IN THE
ENDLESS DARK...

HERE AT
THE END OF ALL
STORIES.



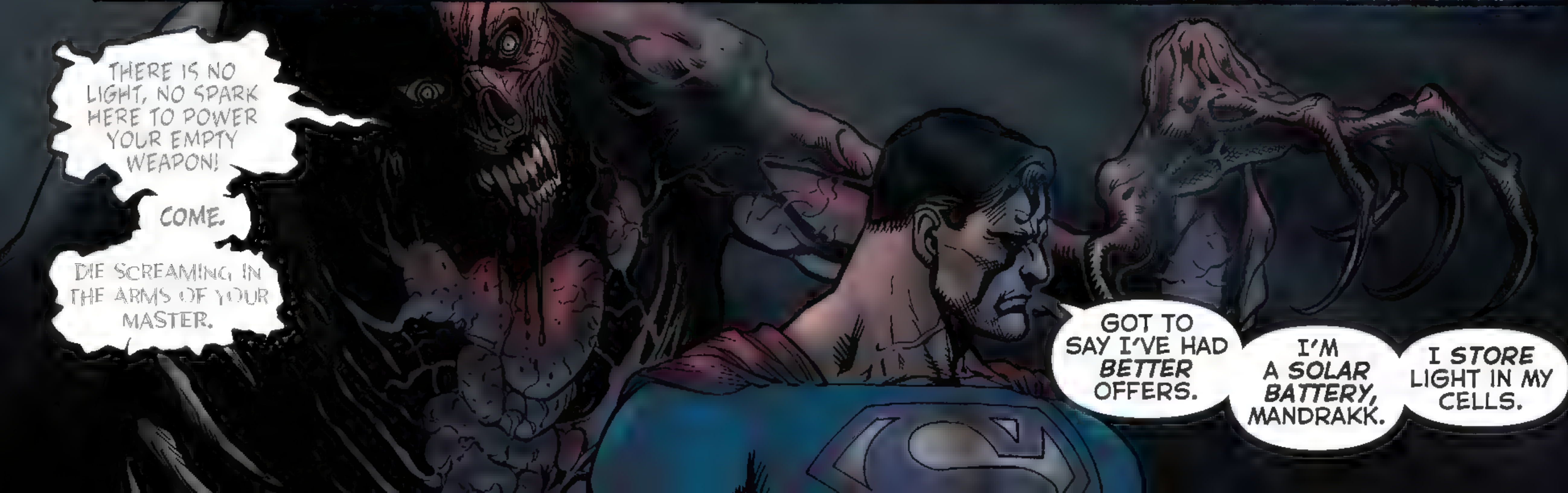
WHERE
MANDRAKK
WAITS FOR
YOU.



AS I FED ON
THESE "SERVANTS OF
GOD" DEFENDERS OF
THIS UNIVERSE.

DRAINED NOW.

MEANINGLESS.



THERE IS NO
LIGHT, NO SPARK
HERE TO POWER
YOUR EMPTY
WEAPON!

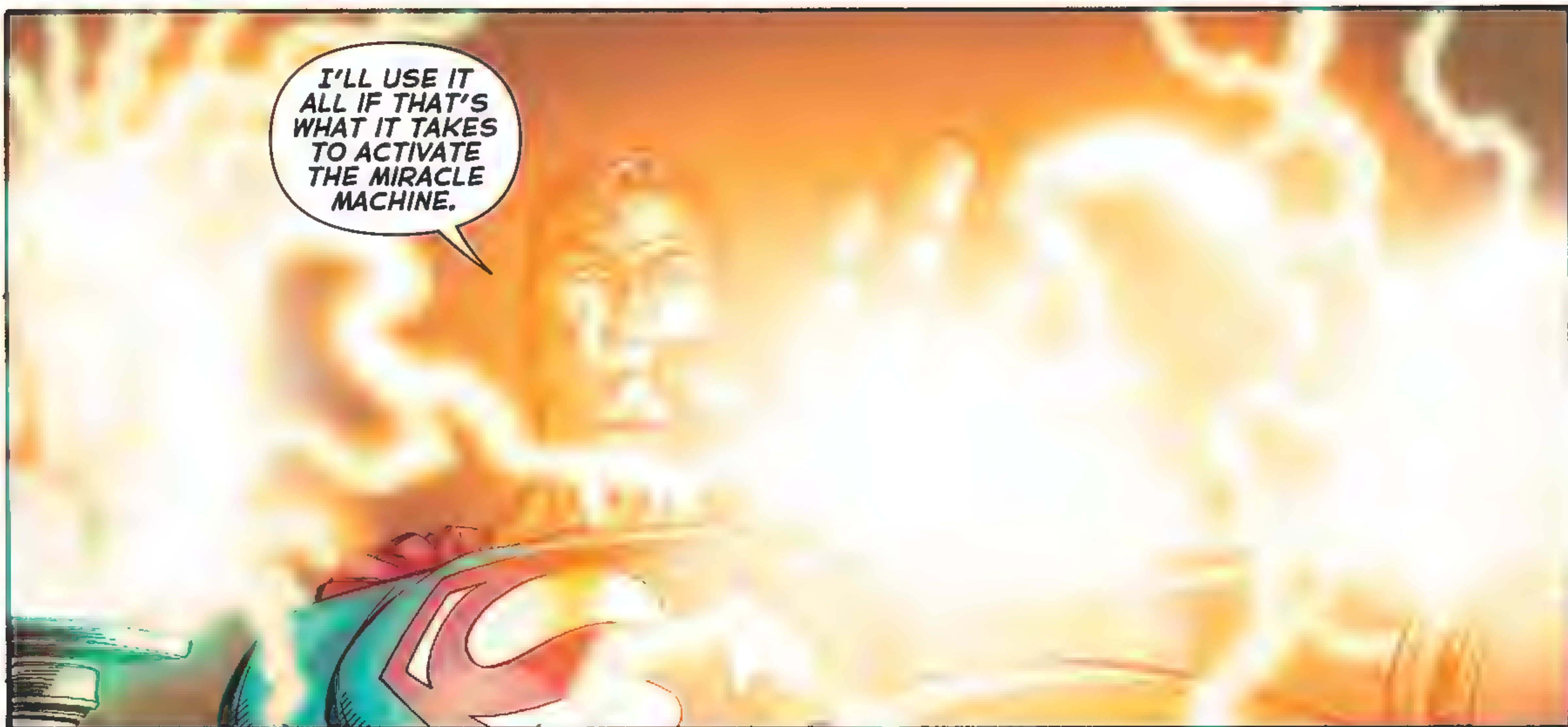
COME.

DIE SCREAMING IN
THE ARMS OF YOUR
MASTER.

GOT TO
SAY I'VE HAD
BETTER
OFFERS.

I'M
A SOLAR
BATTERY,
MANDRAKK.

I STORE
LIGHT IN MY
CELLS.



I'LL USE IT
ALL IF THAT'S
WHAT IT TAKES
TO ACTIVATE
THE MIRACLE
MACHINE.



...RINGS ARE
EXHAUSTED,
HAL.

BUT
WHAT IN HELL
ARE THOSE
THINGS?

WHATEVER
THEY ARE,
THEY'RE OUR
WAY ACROSS
THE EVENT
HORIZON!

LET'S
HEAR IT!!

IN BRIGHTEST DAY,
IN BLACKEST NIGHT,
NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE
OUR SIGHT!



WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?

I RELIED ON
CAPTAIN MARVEL OF
EARTH-5 TO COME
THROUGH.

NOT SO EASY
WHEN YOUR PREY
BITES BACK, IS
IT, MANDRAKK?

LOOK
UP IN THE
SKY.

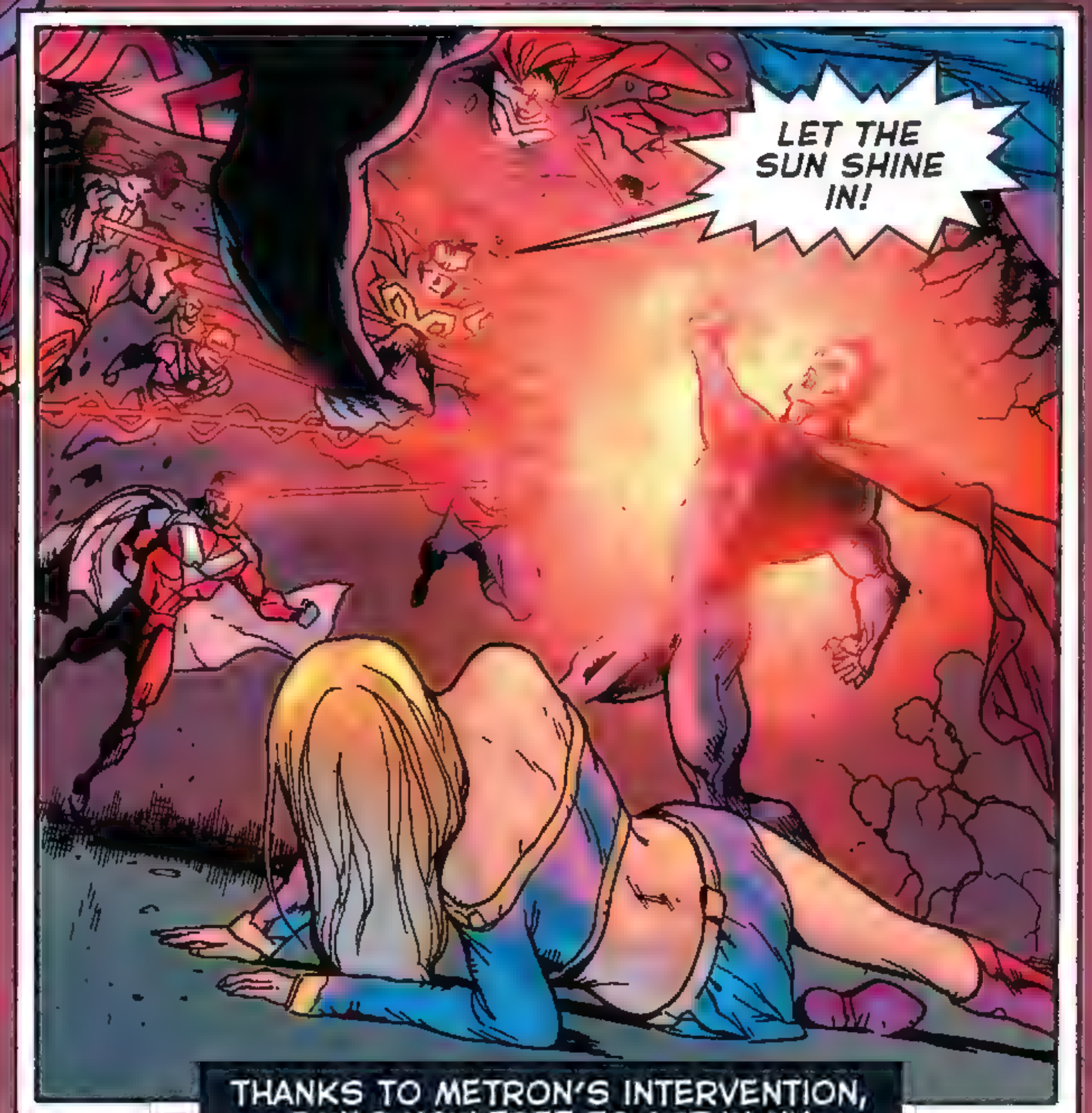


READY,
GENTLEMEN?



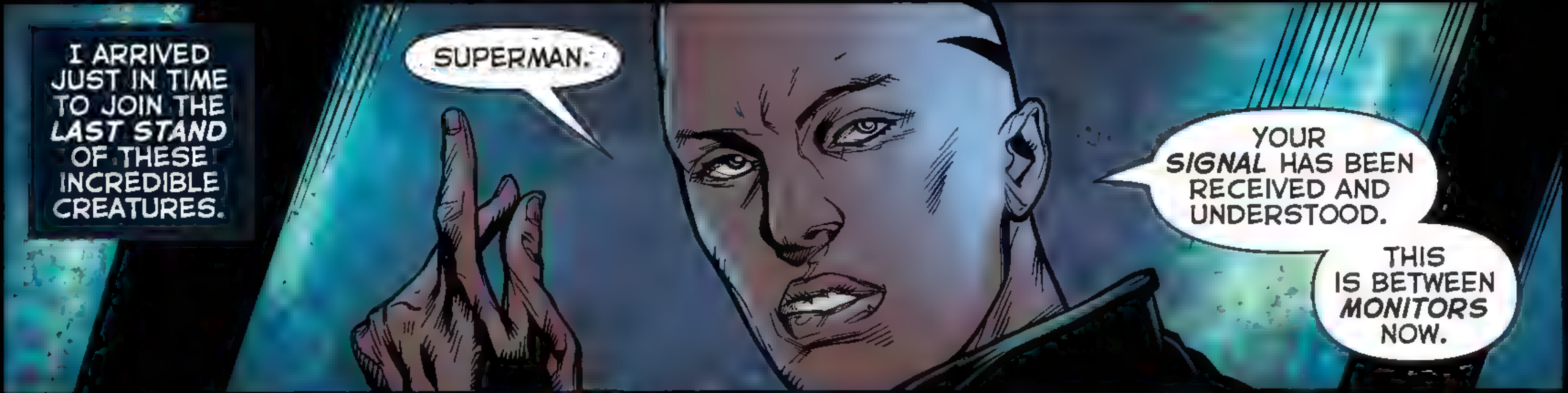
LET ME
KILL THEM ALL,
MASTER!
SHE
CAN WAIT!

UNHHH...



LET THE
SUN SHINE
IN!

THANKS TO METRON'S INTERVENTION,
I WAS NOW FREE TO ACT IN MY
CAPACITY AS A MULTIVERSAL MONITOR.

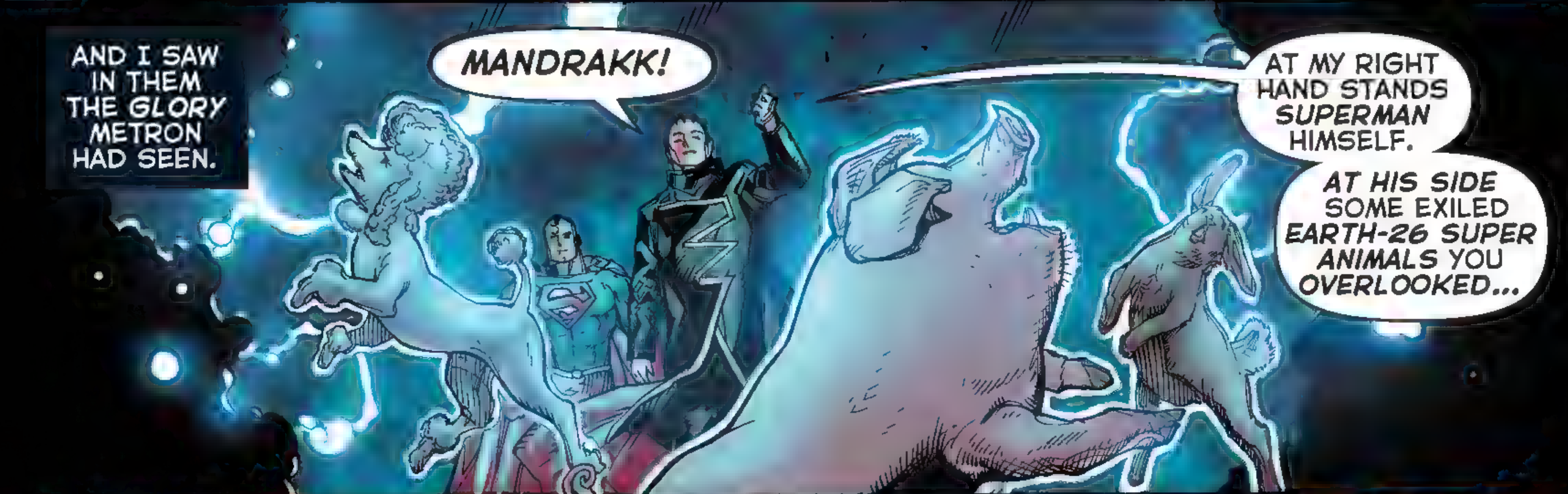


I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO JOIN THE LAST STAND OF THESE INCREDIBLE CREATURES.

SUPERMAN.

YOUR SIGNAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND UNDERSTOOD.

THIS IS BETWEEN MONITORS NOW.



AND I SAW IN THEM THE GLORY METRON HAD SEEN.

MANDRAKK!

AT MY RIGHT HAND STANDS SUPERMAN HIMSELF.

AT HIS SIDE SOME EXILED EARTH-26 SUPER ANIMALS YOU OVERLOOKED...



BEHIND ME THE VENGEFUL ANGELS OF THE PAX DEI DESCEND, THE ARMY OF GOD!

AND THE SUPERMEN OF THE MULTIVERSE: A TEAM OF SOLAR-POWERED HEROES SO INCREDIBLE IT CAN BE ASSEMBLED ONLY ONCE AGAINST THE ABSOLUTE ENEMY.

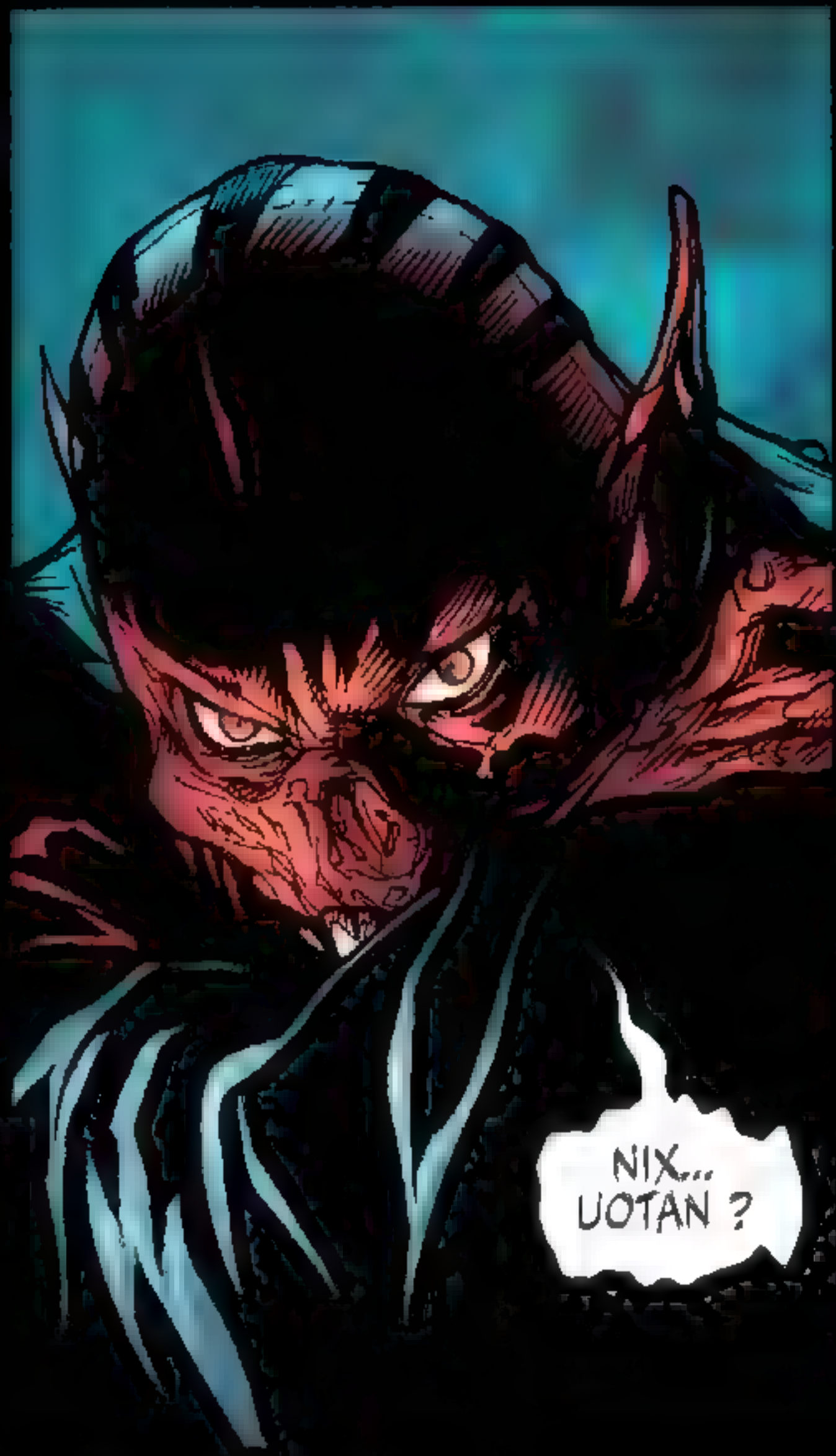
SO TURN BACK.



CRAWL HOME TO YOUR TOMB WITH YOUR CARRION-SHADOWS.

DAWN IS ON ITS WAY.

UOTAN?



NIX...
UOTAN ?



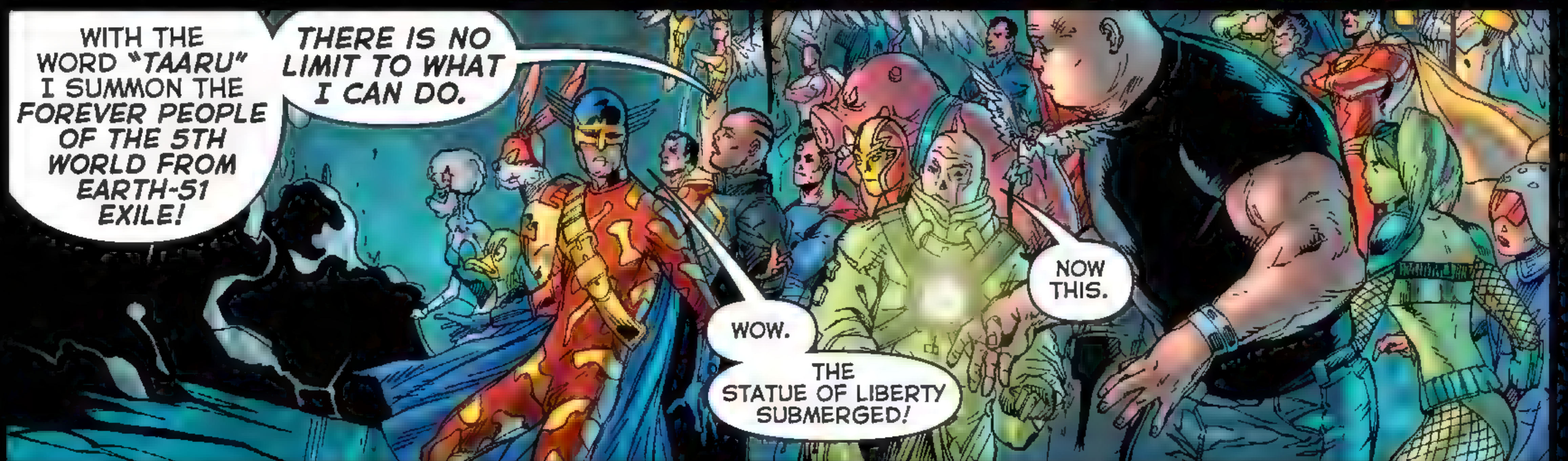
MY
SON?



WHO
ELSE?

YOU
KILLED MY
MOTHER,
ZILLO
VALLA.

BUT
YOU MADE
ME TO SAVE
THE WORLD
FROM
YOU.



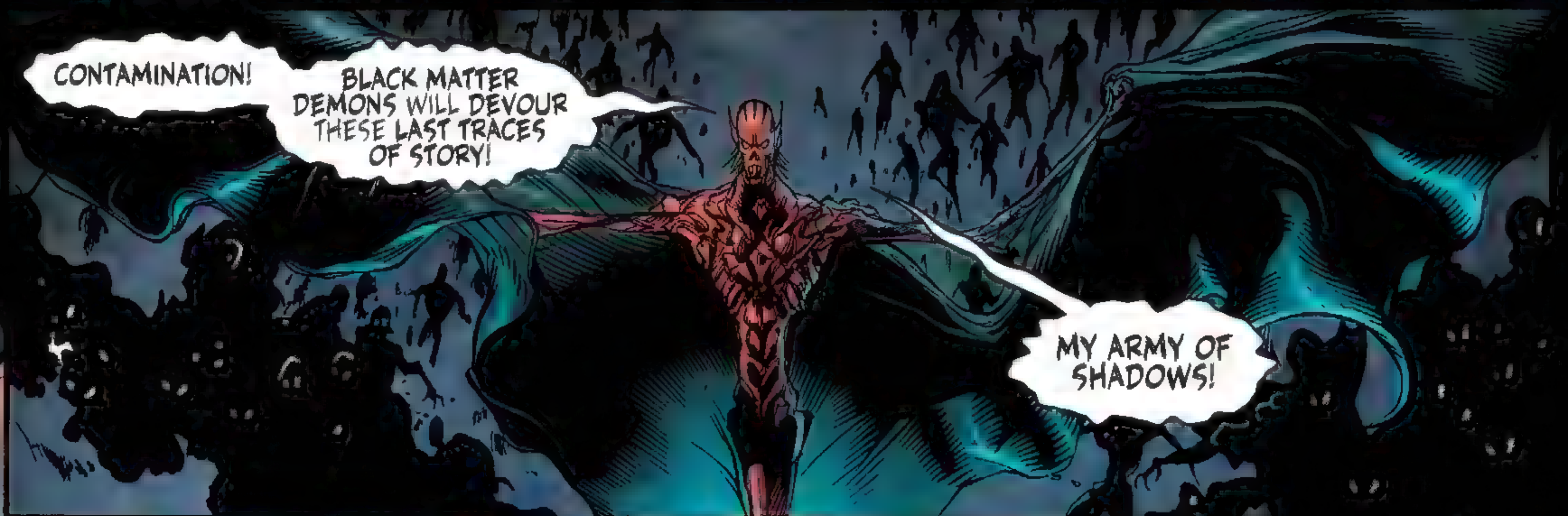
WITH THE
WORD "TAARU"
I SUMMON THE
FOREVER PEOPLE
OF THE 5TH
WORLD FROM
EARTH-51
EXILE!

THERE IS NO
LIMIT TO WHAT
I CAN DO.

WOW.

THE
STATUE OF LIBERTY
SUBMERGED!

NOW
THIS.



CONTAMINATION!

BLACK MATTER
DEMONS WILL DEVOUR
THESE LAST TRACES
OF STORY!

MY ARMY OF
SHADOWS!



NOW
I GET
IT.

WHO'S
WITH ME?

SUPER
YOUNG
TEAM!

RUN AT HIM
SCREAMING!



SUPERMAN!
KILL YOU!
I KILL
YOU!



WHAT?
YOU
REMINDE ME OF
AN OLD FRIEND,
THAT'S ALL.



MATTER MEETS
ANTIMATTER!

KILL
YOU!

TRY
SONNY
SUMO
FIRST!



KILL
UNNGHH



IT HAS
TO END!
YOU'RE
OUTNUMBERED!

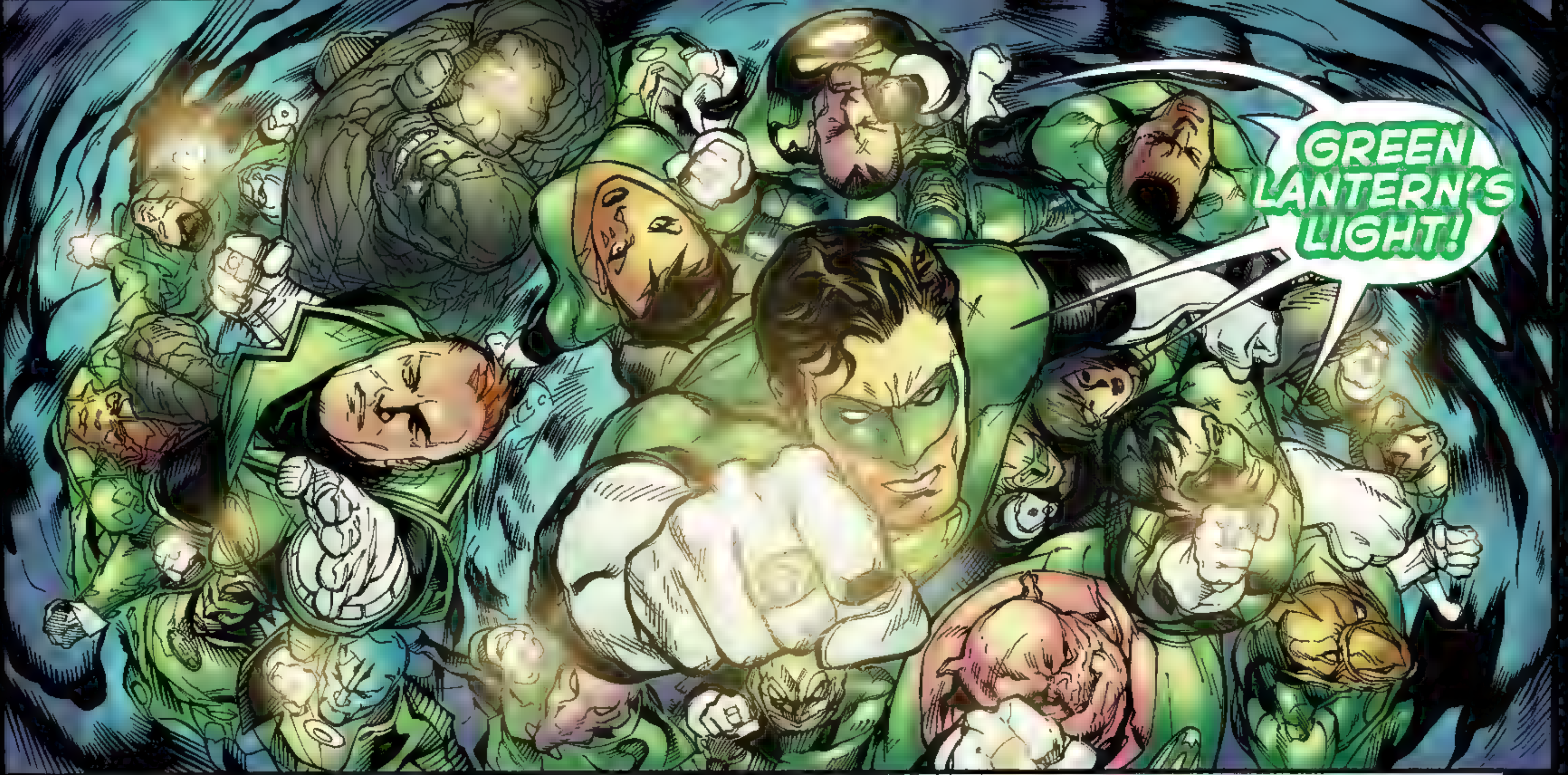
DARKNESS
MUST FALL
IN THE
END!



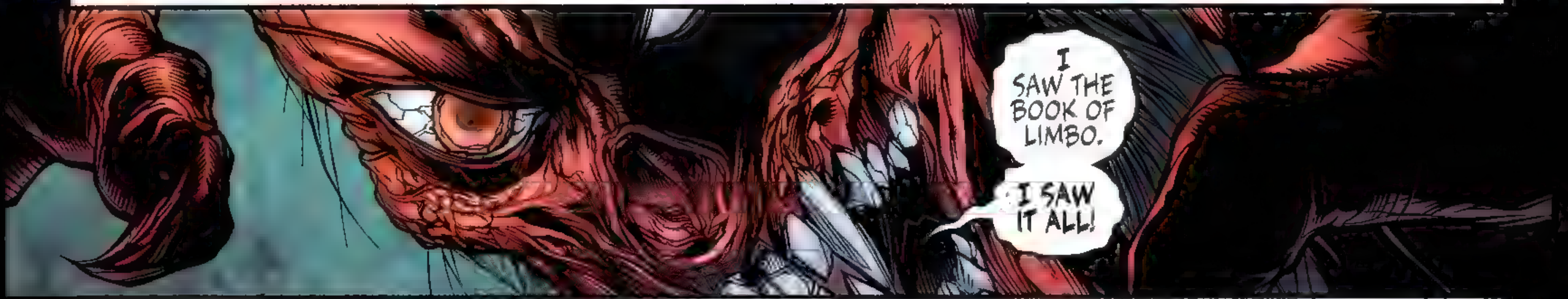
YOU
THINK...
BUT STILL GROWS
STRONGER,
CAN YOU
HEAR?

"LET
THOSE WHO
WORSHIP EVIL'S
MIGHT."

"BEWARE MY
POWER..."



**GREEN
LANTERN'S
LIGHT!**



I
SAW THE
BOOK OF
LIMBO.

I SAW
IT ALL!



RINGS
CAN'T
HANDLE THIS,
JORDAN!

WE'RE
ALL OUTTA
JUICE JUST
GETTING
HERE!

WHEREVER
HERE IS!

GUY'S
RIGHT!

OUR 24
HOURS ARE
UP, HAL!

SO
LET'S HEAR
IT FOR ONE LAST
EFFORT, TEAM.



ONE
THOUGHT!
ALL
TOGETHER!

THE
END WAS ALL
FLAMES AND
SHADOWS!



AND
SPIKE THIS
VAMPIRE!



"DARKNESS
MUST FALL."



YOU
GOT THAT
RIGHT.

THIS
MULTIVERSE
HAS NATURAL
DEFENSES
NONE OF YOU
COULD HAVE
IMAGINED.



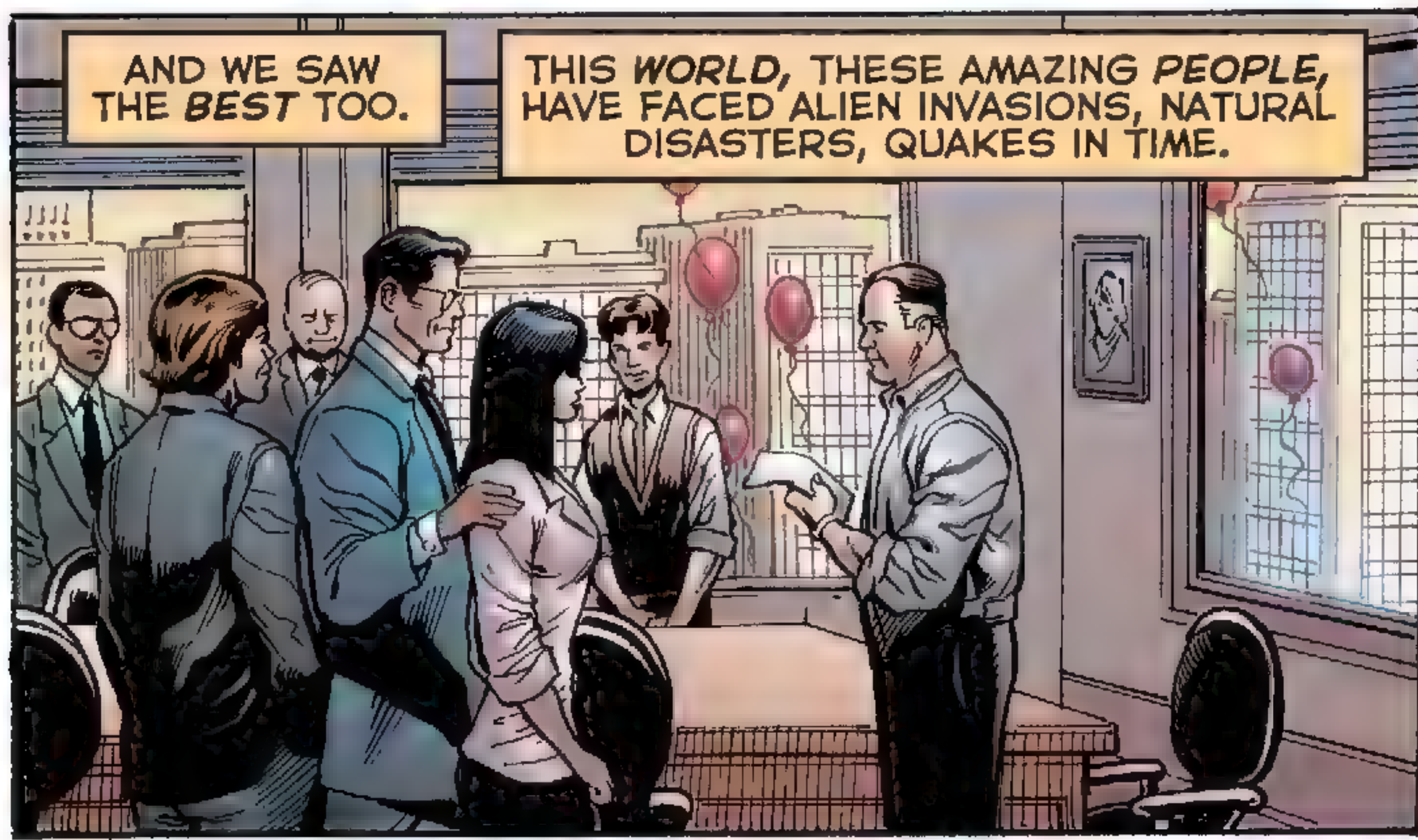
DON'T
PUSH YOUR
LUCK WITH
THE JUDGE
OF ALL
EVIL.



WE LIVED THROUGH
RAGNAROK AND
FOUGHT A GOD.

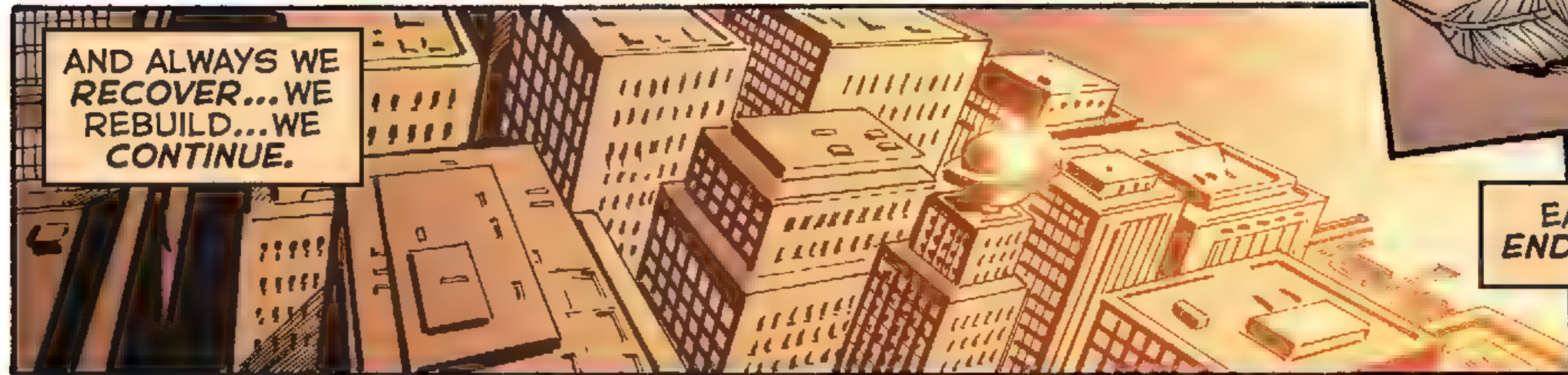
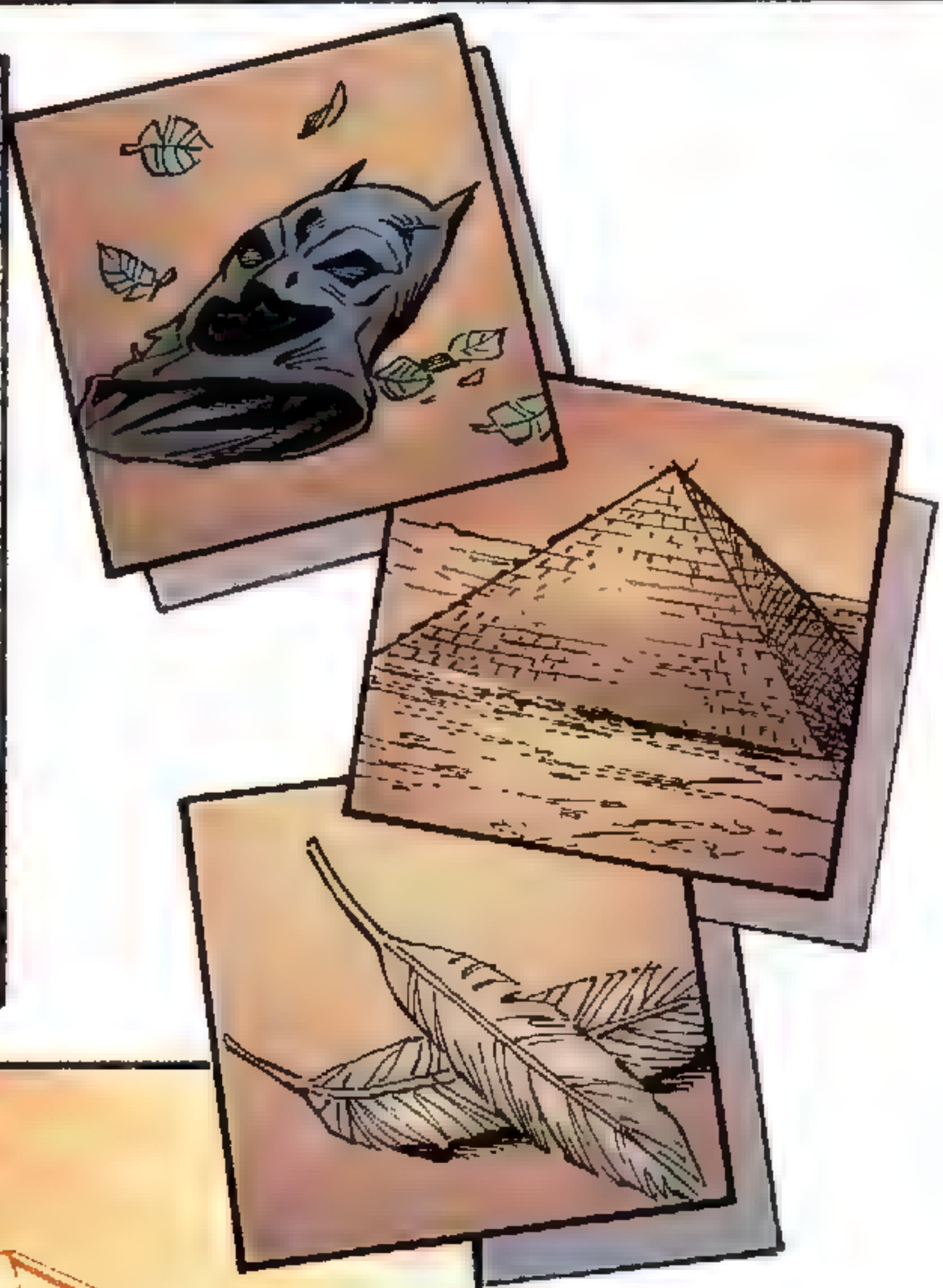
WE SURVIVED
THE BITE OF
A COSMIC
PARASITE.

WE LOST GOOD
FRIENDS AND SAW
WHAT THE WORST
IN US COULD DO IF
WE LET IT LOOSE.



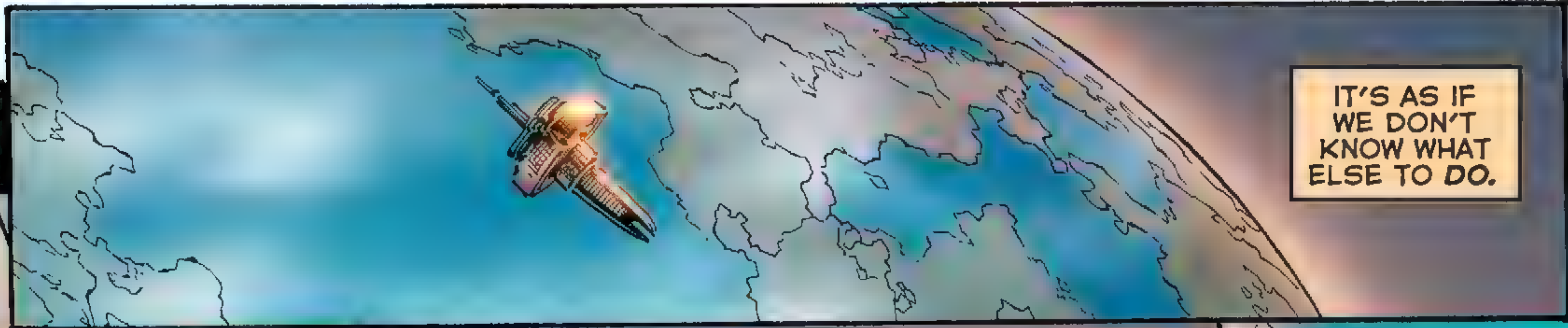
AND WE SAW
THE BEST TOO.

THIS WORLD, THESE AMAZING PEOPLE,
HAVE FACED ALIEN INVASIONS, NATURAL
DISASTERS, QUAKE IN TIME.



AND ALWAYS WE
RECOVER...WE
REBUILD...WE
CONTINUE.

EARTH
ENDURES.



IT'S AS IF
WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
ELSE TO DO.



THE DAMAGE
CAUSED TO THE
ORRERY OF WORLDS
BY DARKSEID'S
FALL IS UNDER
REPAIR.



AS IT WAS EVER
DONE, SO SHALL
IT BE DONE AGAIN...
WITH APOLOGIES
TO MONITOR
NIX UOTAN.

WE MUST
ALSO DISCUSS
REPLACEMENTS FOR
ZILLO VALLA AND
ROX OGAMA.

EARTH
DESIGNATES-
43 AND 31
ARE CURRENTLY
UNMONITORED.

THE GERM-
CREATURES
THEMSELVES
REESTABLISHED
THE SYMMETRY OF
THE ORRERY, THE
"MULTIVERSE"
AS THEY CALL
IT.



I'VE NEVER
WITNESSED
SUCH INDUSTRY,
SUCH
INTELLIGENCE.

AND THE
WHITE-HOT
PASSIONS
THAT DRIVE
THEM...



PASSIONS POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO TRIGGER
CATASTROPHIC
CHANGES IN BEINGS
MADE OF PURE
THOUGHT, LIKE US.



FOR THIS
REASON, I
ADVISE IMMEDIATE
WITHDRAWAL OF
CONTACT WITH
THE GERM
WORLDS.

AND NO FURTHER
EXPLOITATION.

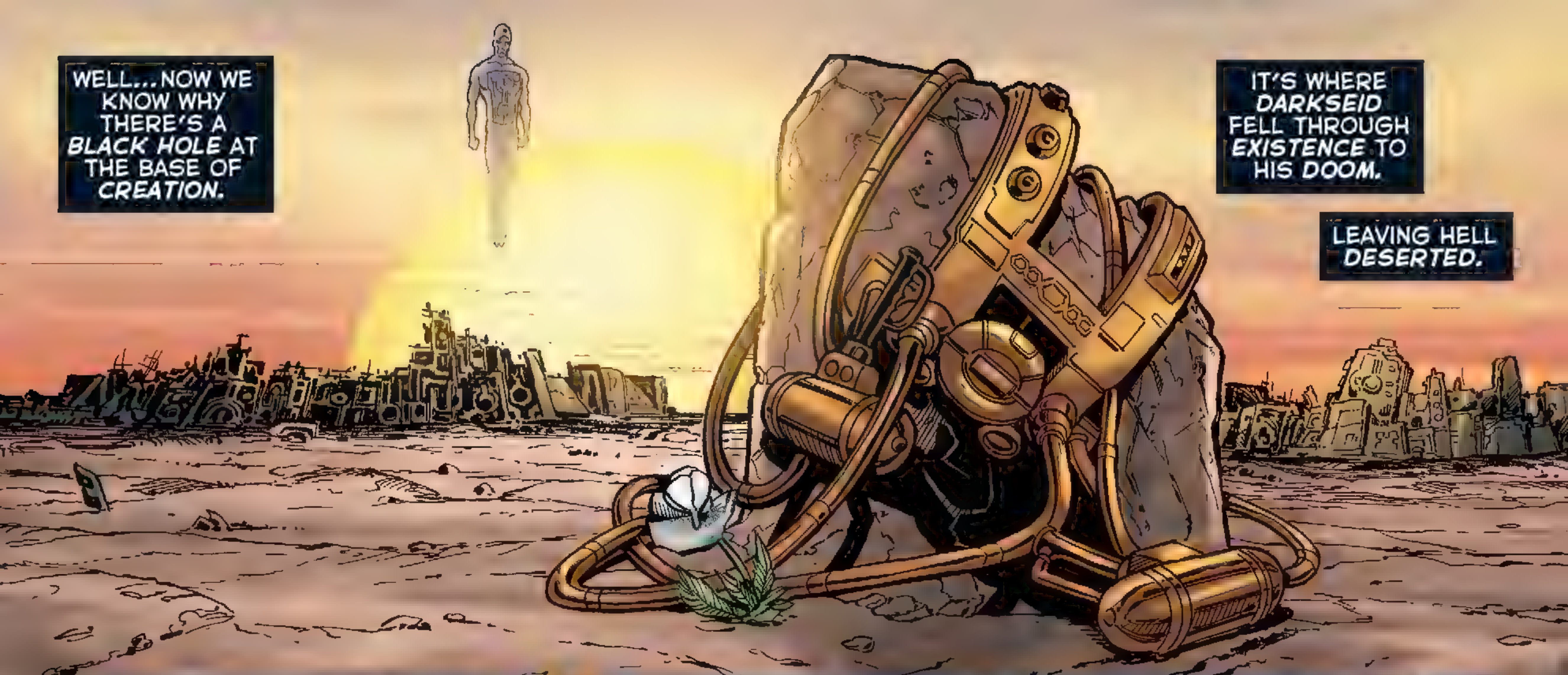
YOUR
CONCERNS ARE
NOTED.

PLEASE JUST
CONTINUE WITH YOUR
REPORT, SPARING
NO DETAILS.

WELL...NOW WE
KNOW WHY
THERE'S A
BLACK HOLE AT
THE BASE OF
CREATION.

IT'S WHERE
DARKSEID
FELL THROUGH
EXISTENCE TO
HIS DOOM.

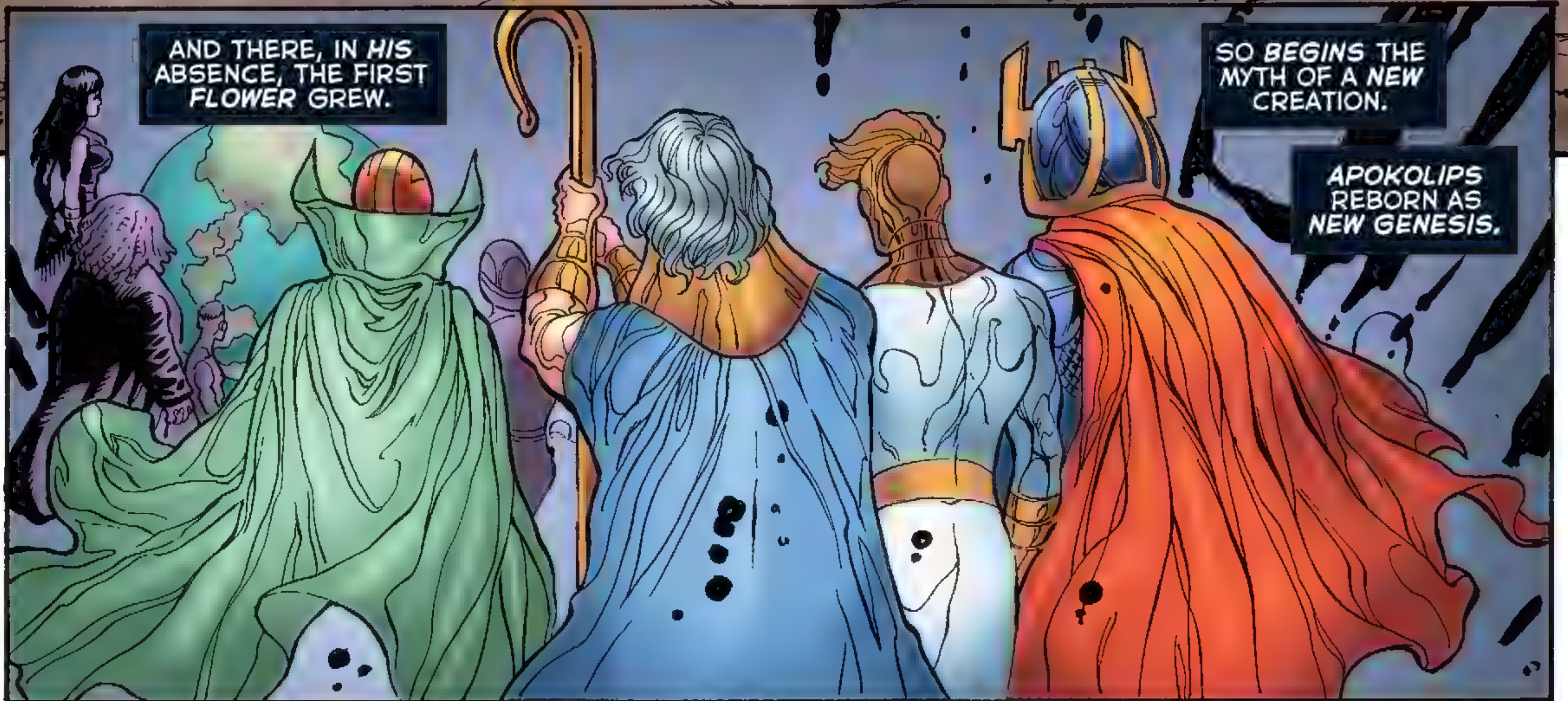
LEAVING HELL
DESERTED.



AND THERE, IN HIS
ABSENCE, THE FIRST
FLOWER GREW.

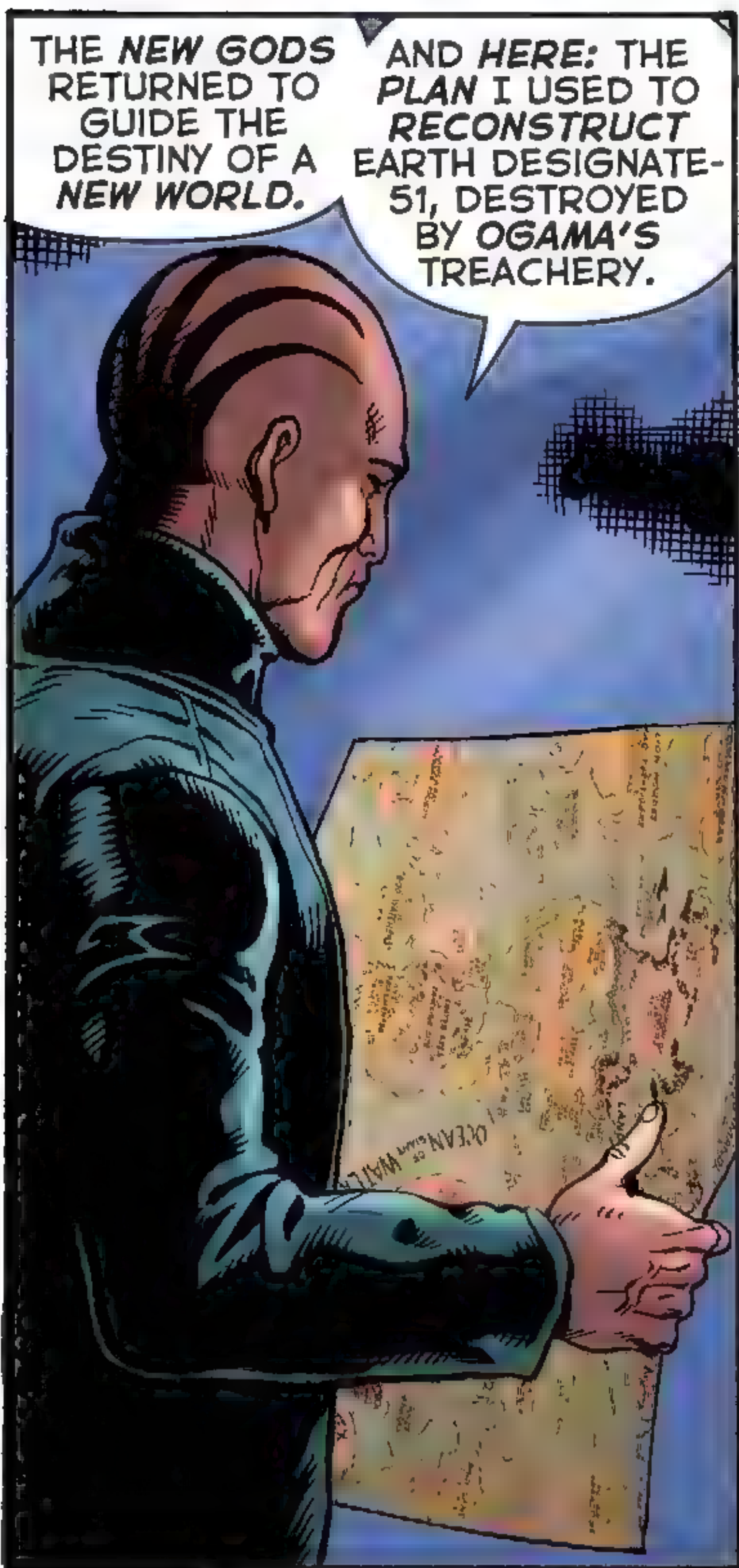
SO BEGINS THE
MYTH OF A NEW
CREATION.

APOKOLIPS
REBORN AS
NEW GENESIS.



THE NEW GODS
RETURNED TO
GUIDE THE
DESTINY OF A
NEW WORLD.

AND HERE: THE
PLAN I USED TO
RECONSTRUCT
EARTH DESIGNATE-
51, DESTROYED
BY OGAMA'S
TREACHERY.



I SAW THE WORLD
REMADE WITH MY
OWN EYES.

WITH PIECES
OF OTHER TIMES,
OTHER PLACES.

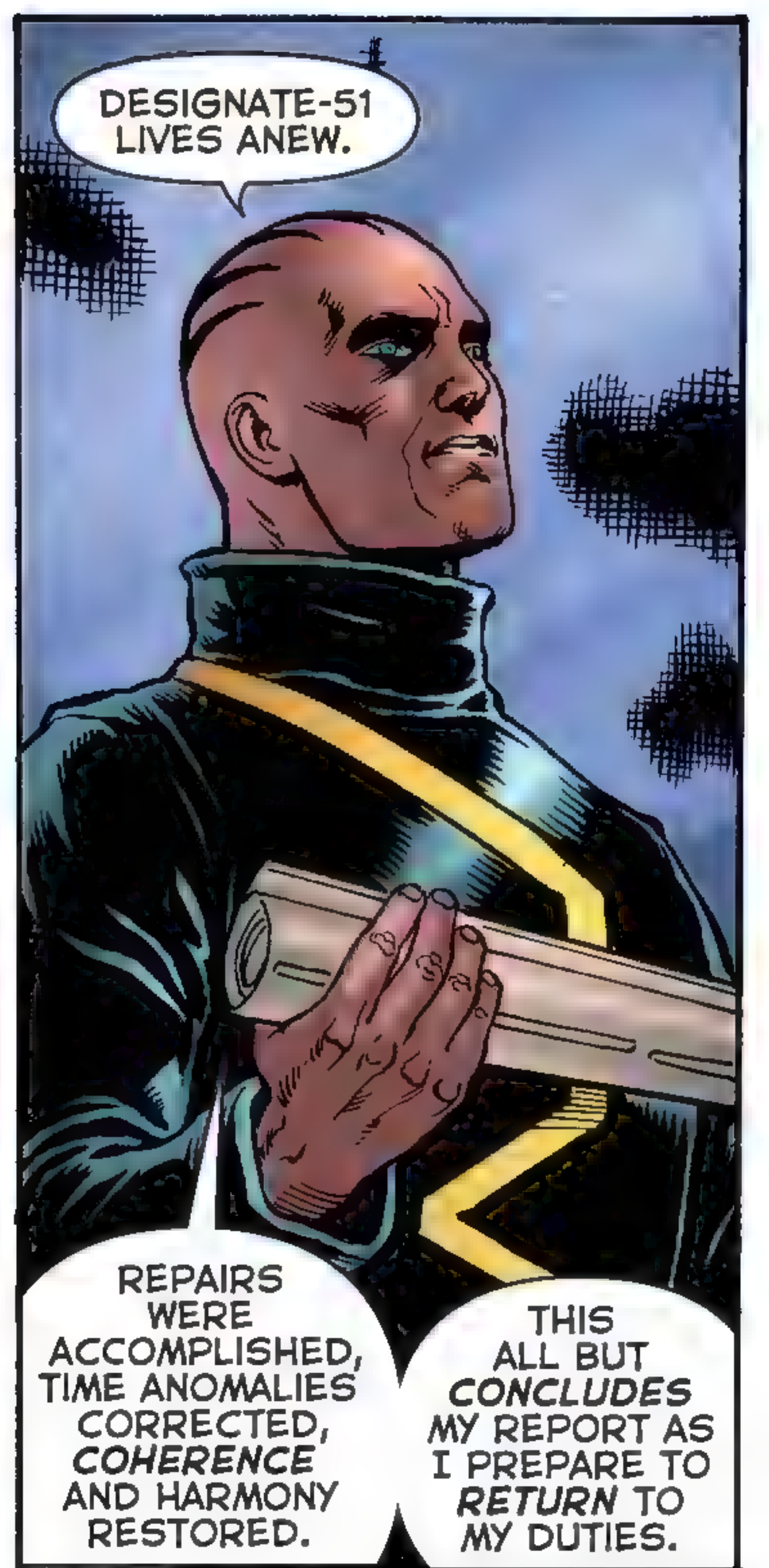
ALL IN A
VISION THAT
CAME TO ME IN
COMMAND-D.

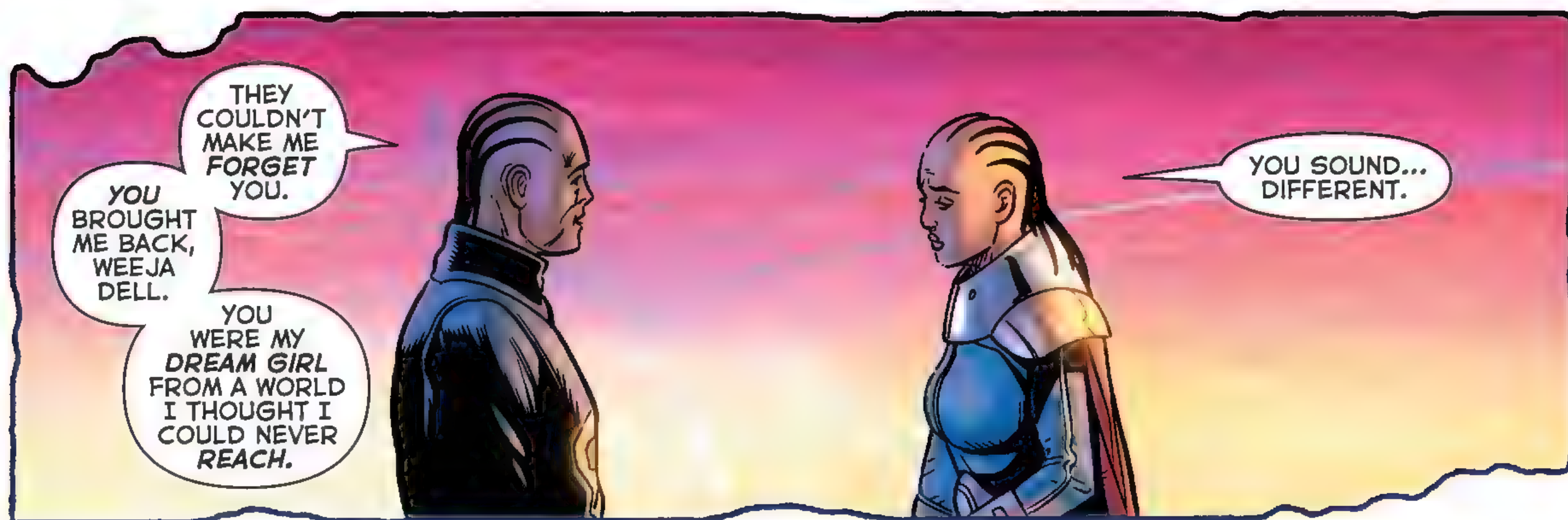
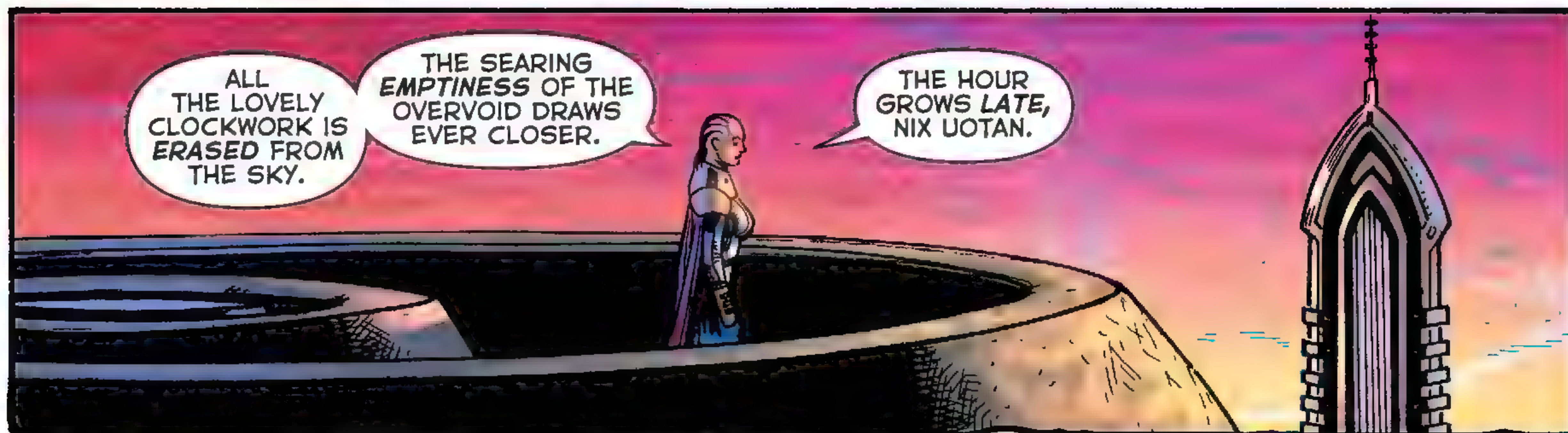
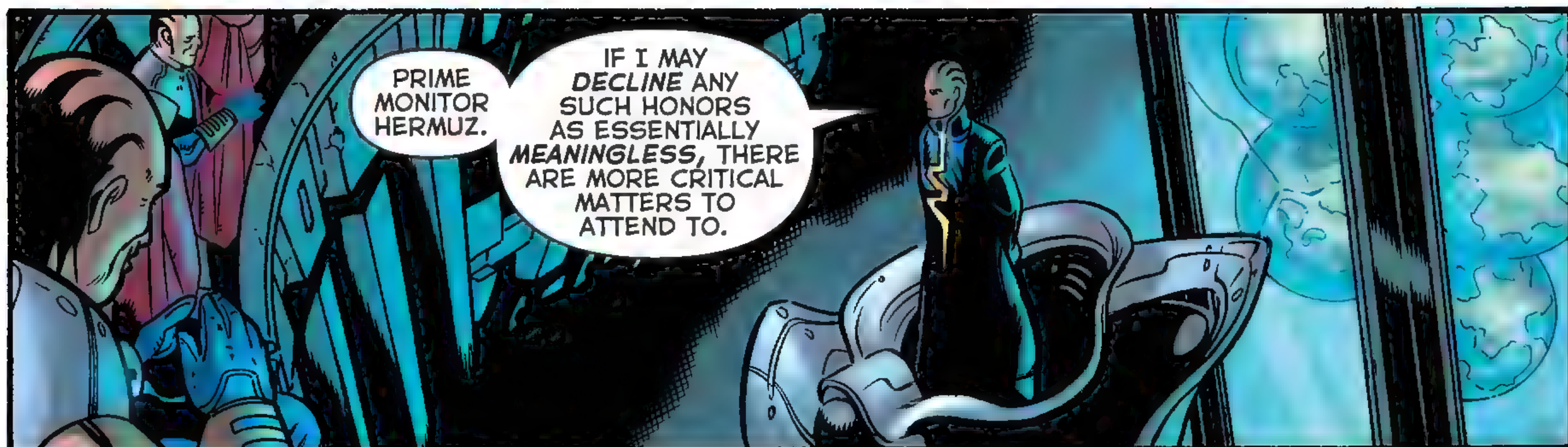
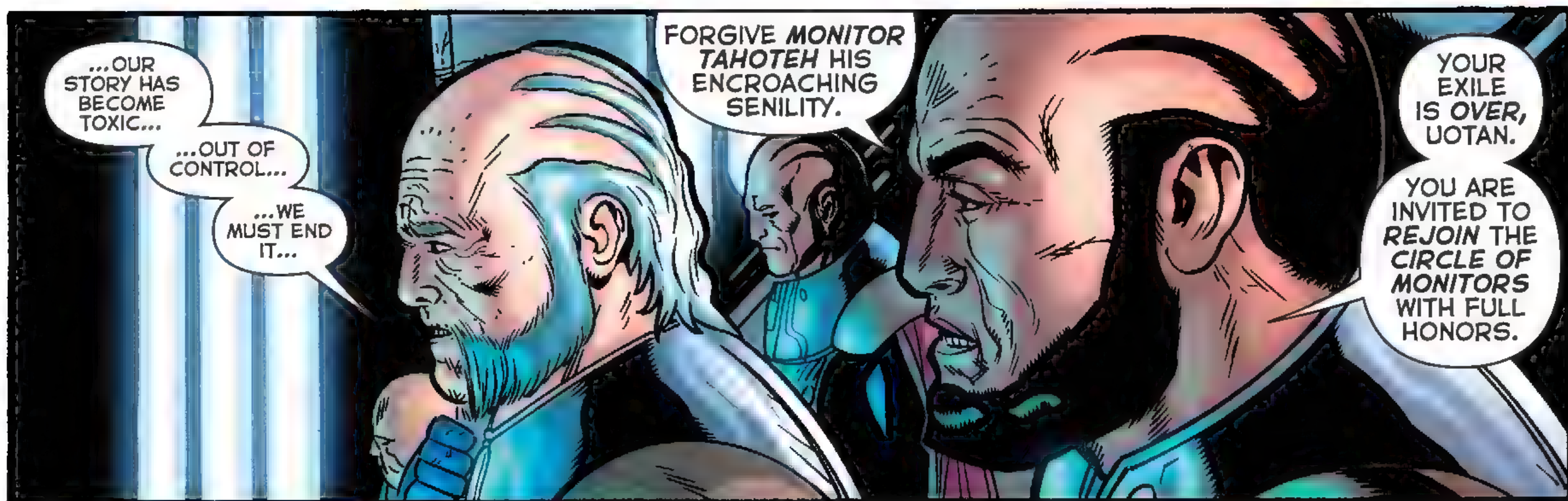


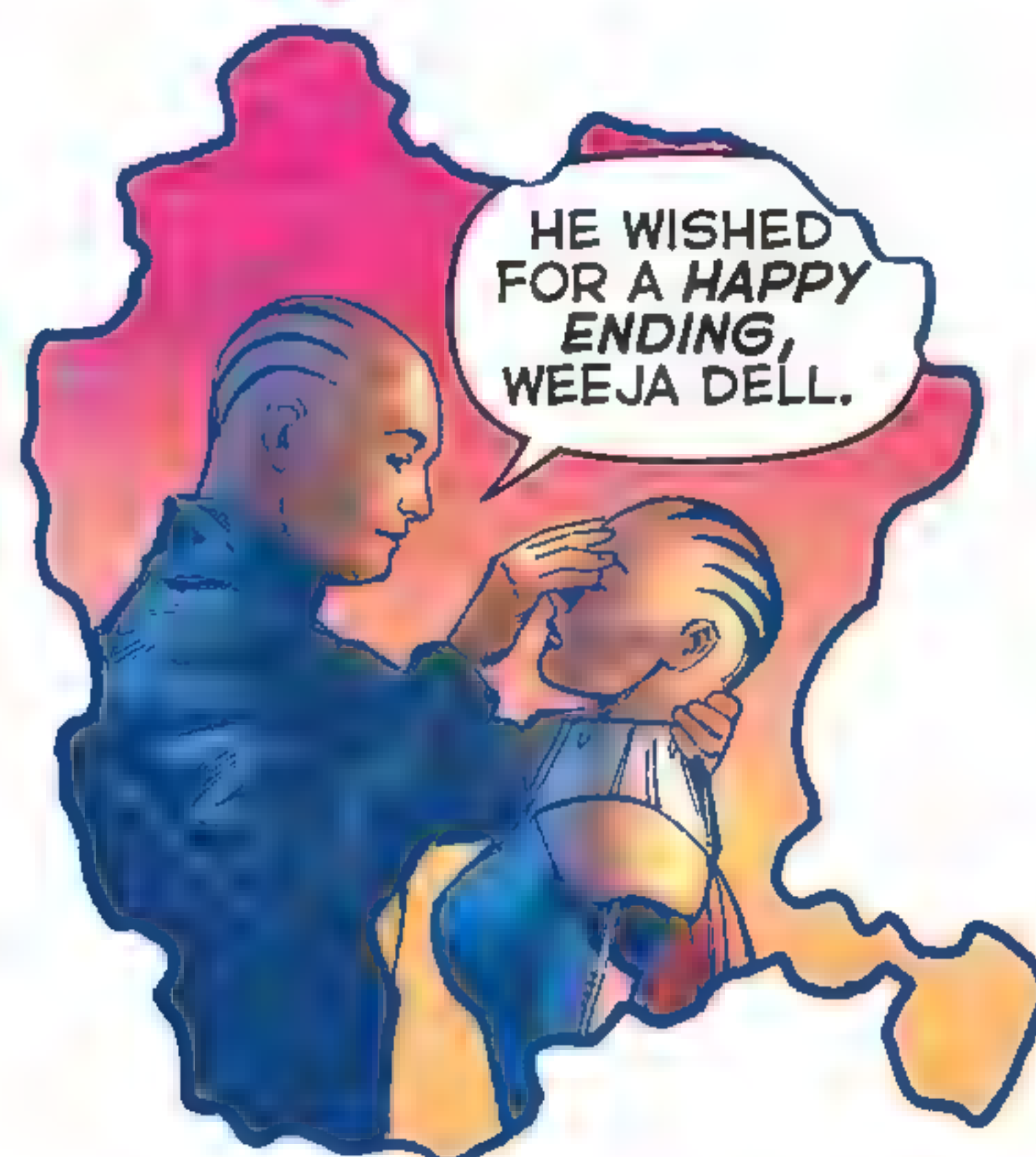
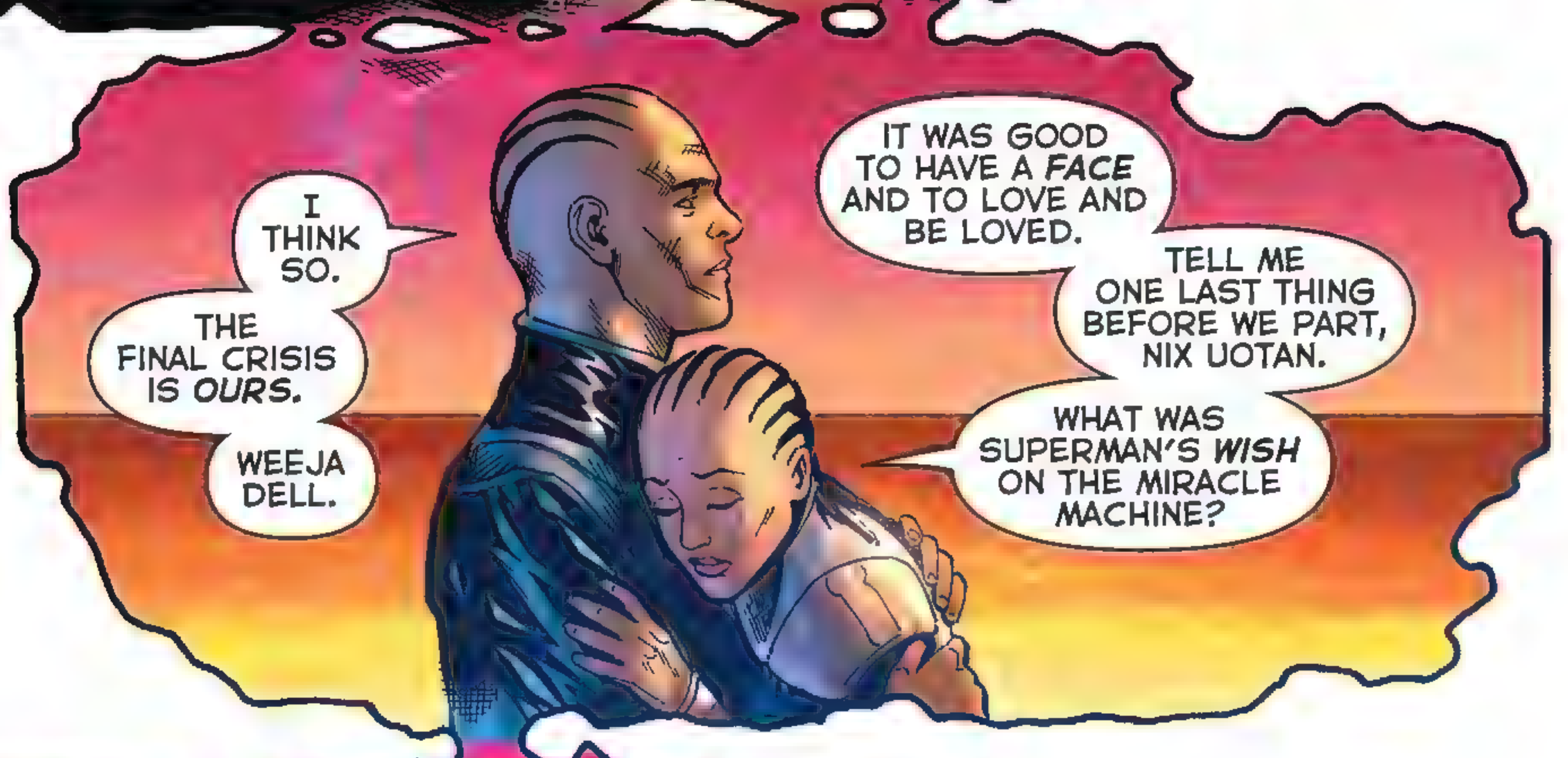
DESIGNATE-51
LIVES ANEW.

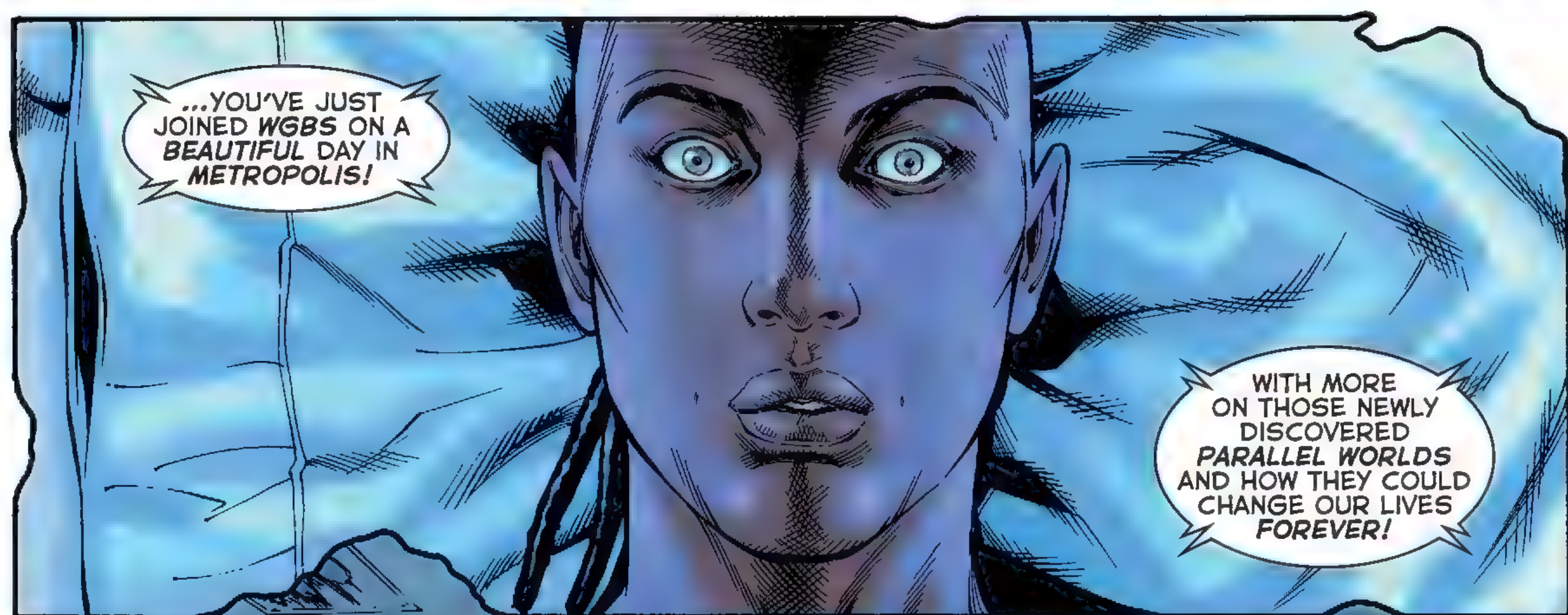
REPAIRS
WERE
ACCOMPLISHED,
TIME ANOMALIES
CORRECTED,
COHERENCE
AND HARMONY
RESTORED.

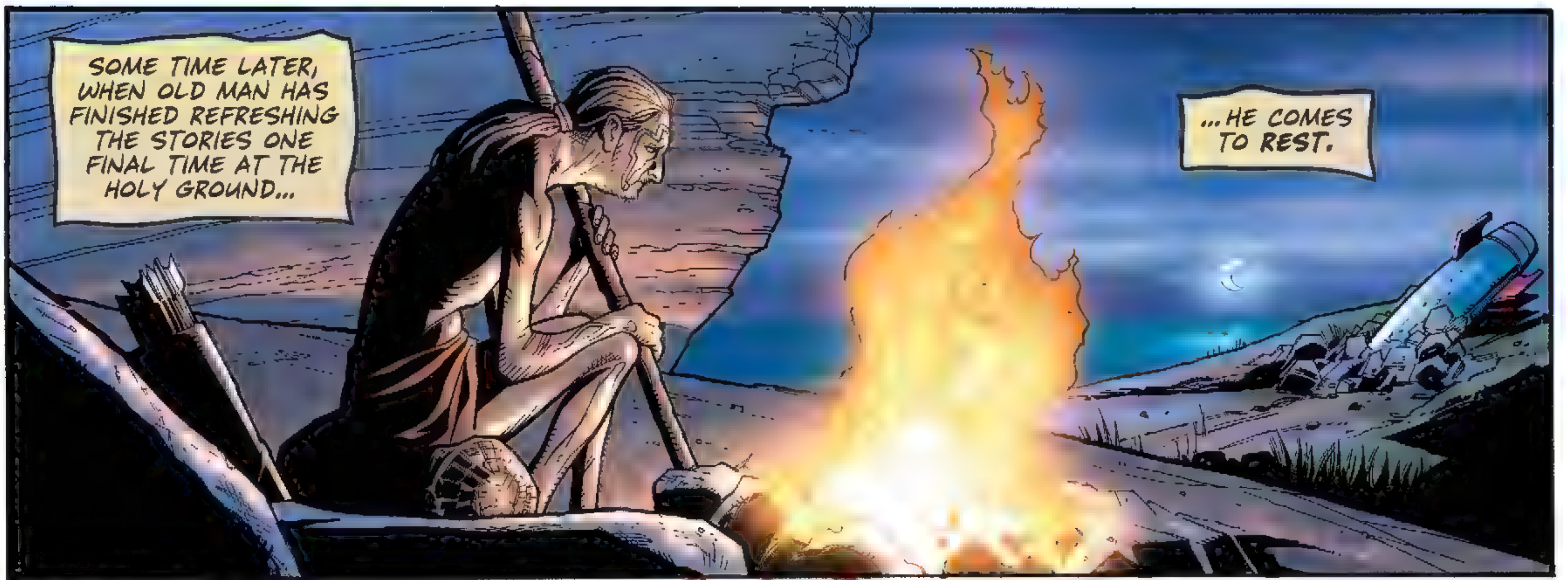
THIS
ALL BUT
CONCLUDES
MY REPORT AS
I PREPARE TO
RETURN TO
MY DUTIES.





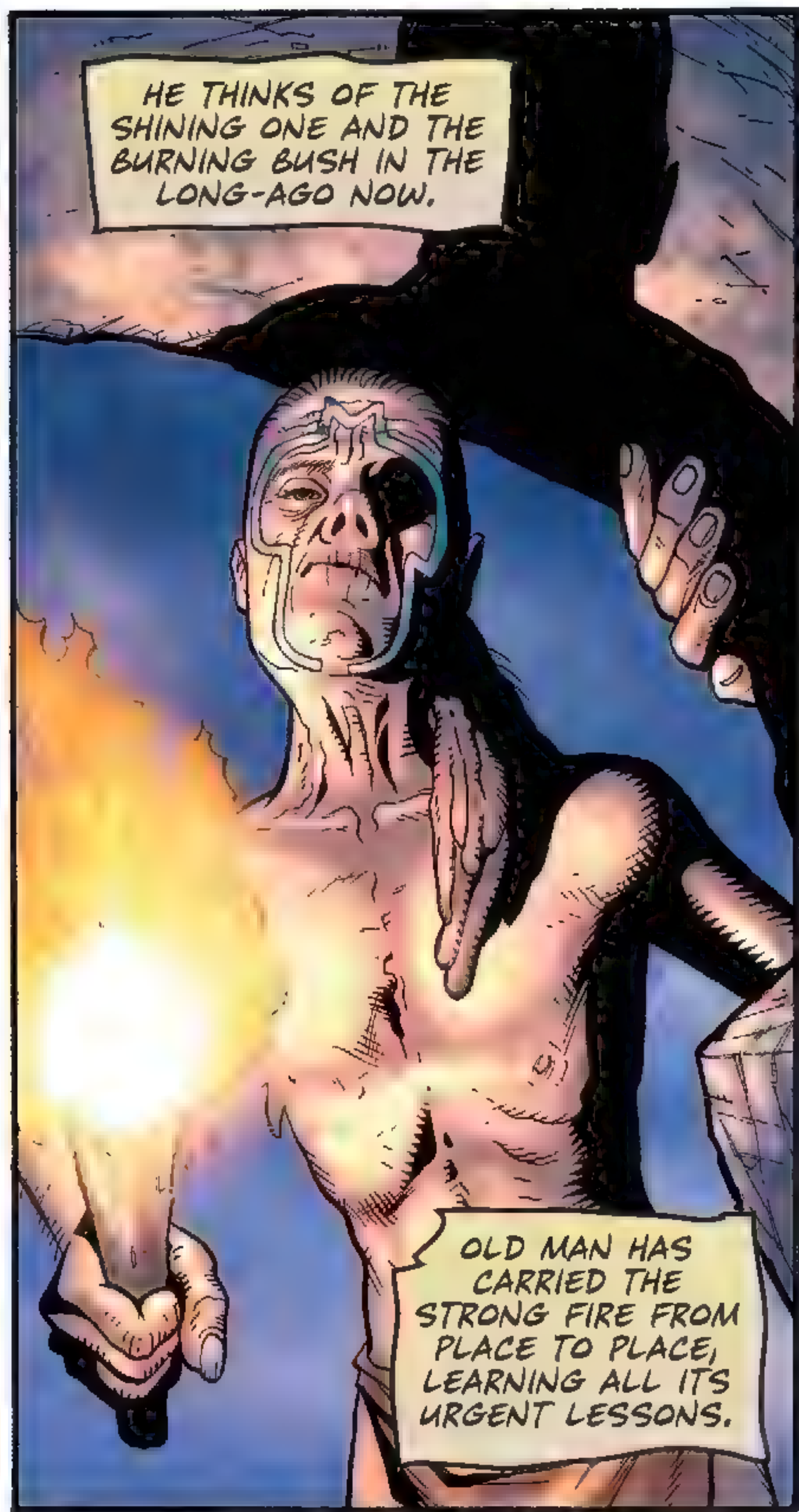






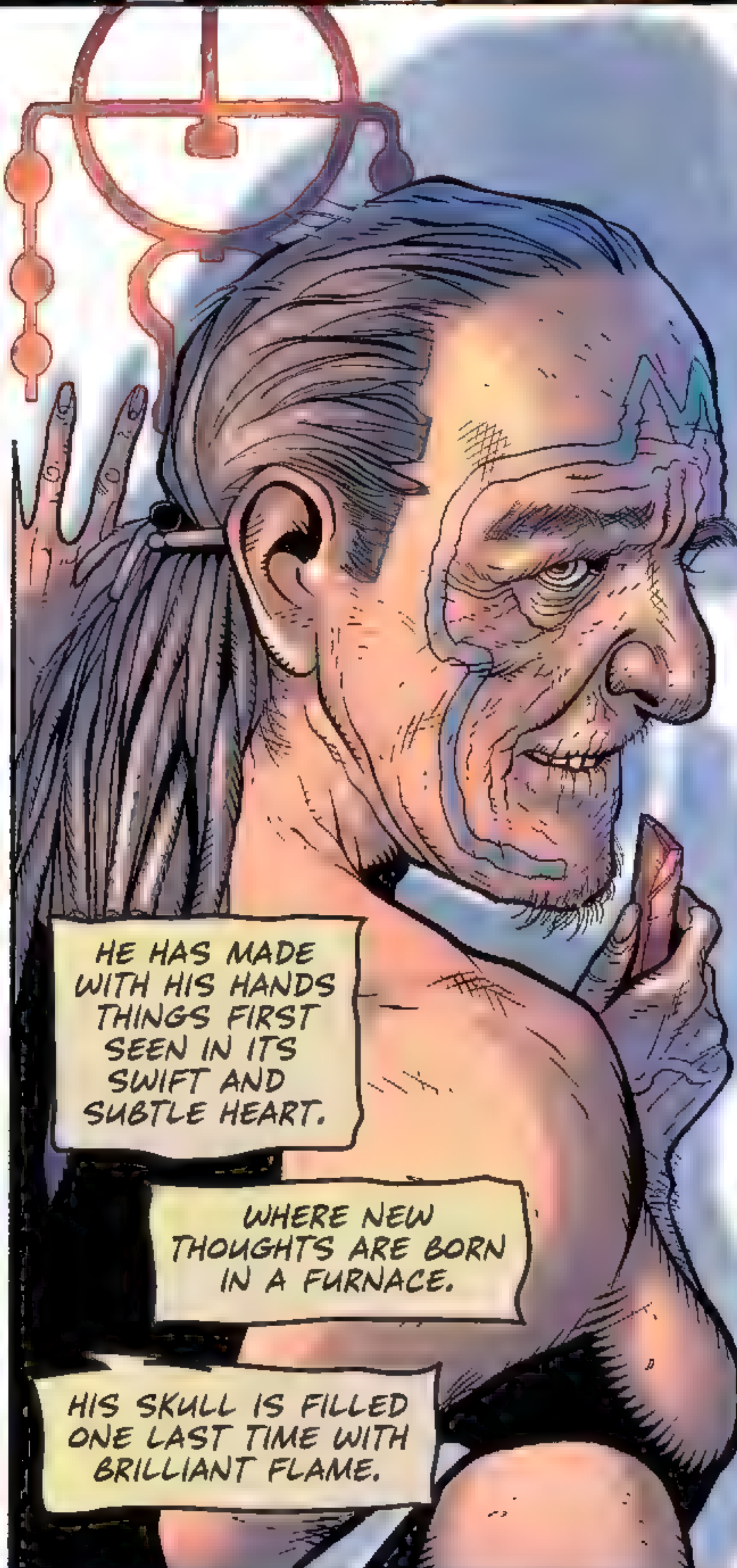
SOME TIME LATER,
WHEN OLD MAN HAS
FINISHED REFRESHING
THE STORIES ONE
FINAL TIME AT THE
HOLY GROUND...

... HE COMES
TO REST.



HE THINKS OF THE
SHINING ONE AND THE
BURNING BUSH IN THE
LONG-AGO NOW.

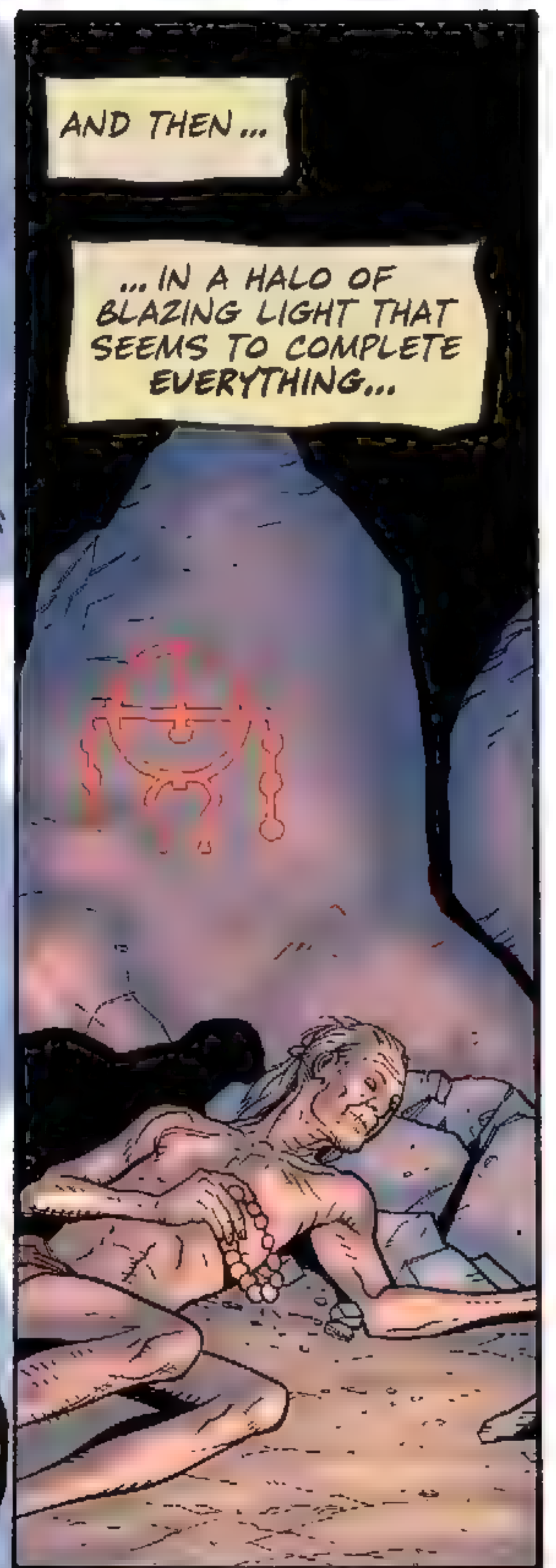
OLD MAN HAS
CARRIED THE
STRONG FIRE FROM
PLACE TO PLACE,
LEARNING ALL ITS
URGENT LESSONS.



HE HAS MADE
WITH HIS HANDS
THINGS FIRST
SEEN IN ITS
SWIFT AND
SUBTLE HEART.

WHERE NEW
THOUGHTS ARE BORN
IN A FURNACE.

HIS SKULL IS FILLED
ONE LAST TIME WITH
BRILLIANT FLAME.



AND THEN ...

... IN A HALO OF
BLAZING LIGHT THAT
SEEMS TO COMPLETE
EVERYTHING...



... OLD MAN
PASSES LIKE
A DREAM.

LIKE
SMOKE.

BUT THE
FIRE BURNS
FOREVER.





FINAL CRISIS

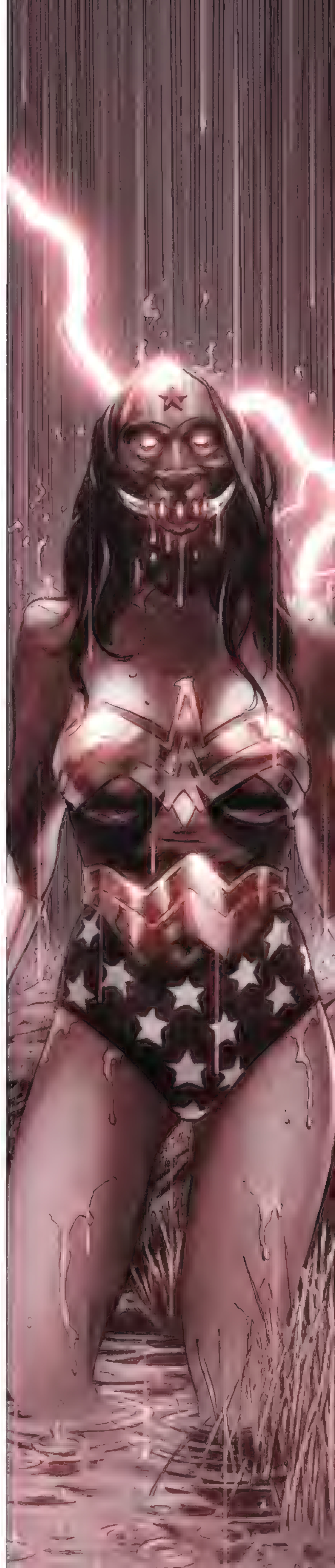
#1 variant cover by
J.G. JONES



FINAL CRISIS

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SUPERMAN BEYOND

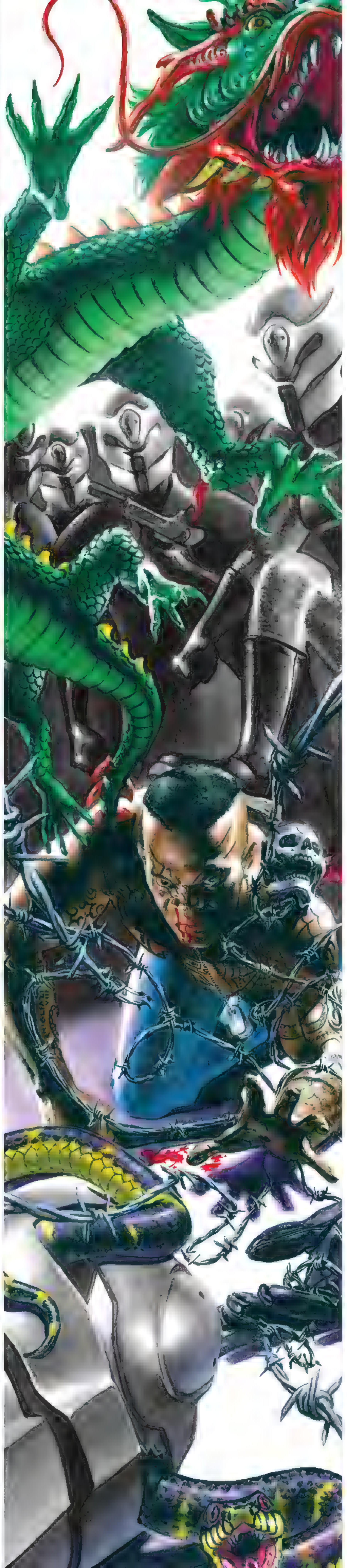
#1 variant cover by
DOUG MAHNKE, CHRISTIAN ALAMY
& DAVID BARON

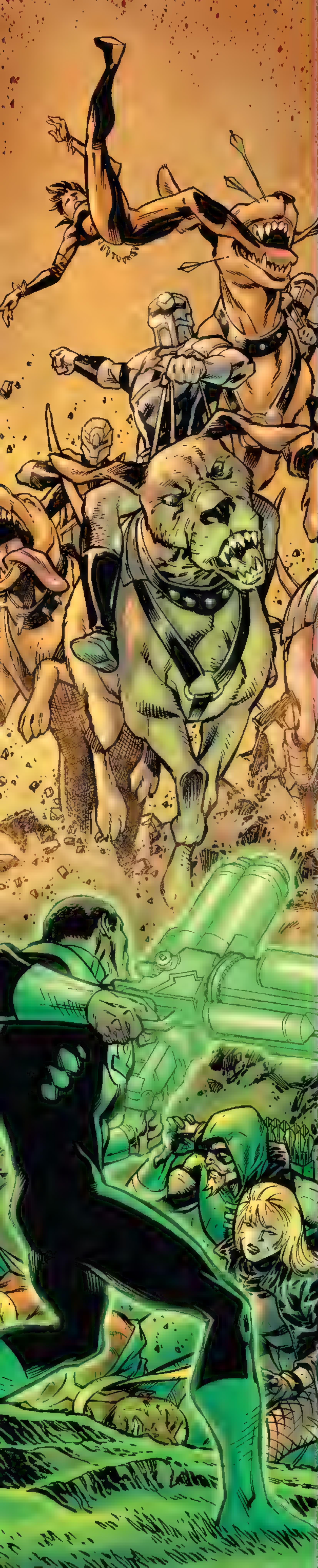
#2 variant cover by
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SUBMIT

#1 variant cover by
RODOLFO MIGLIARI

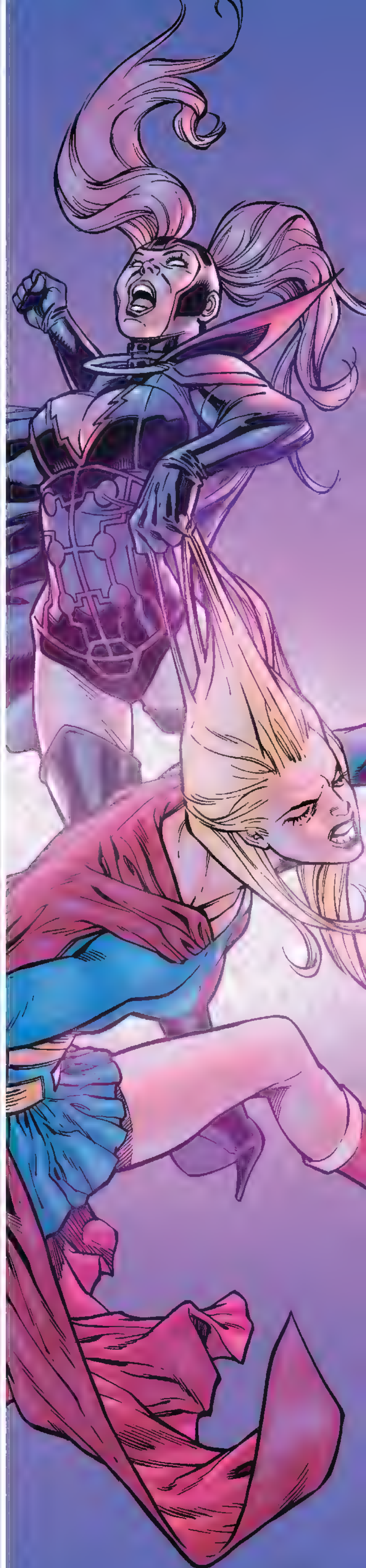




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PACHECO
&
MERINO



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BATMAN #683

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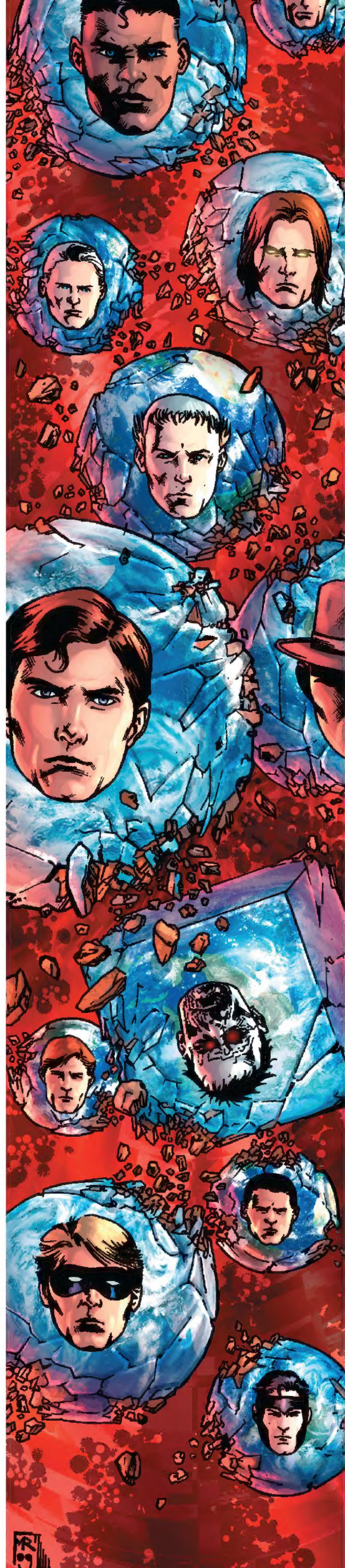


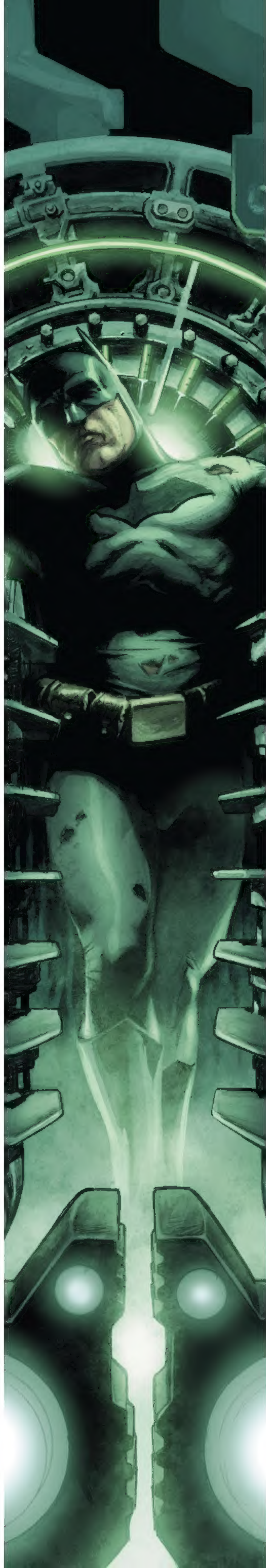


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